



COUNTY SEATS
OF THE
NOBLEMEN
&
GENTLEMEN
OF
GREAT BRITAIN
&
IRELAND



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A SERIES OF
PICTURESQUE VIEWS OF



OF

Noblemen and Gentlemen

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



VOL. III.

LONDON:

WILLIAM MACKENZIE, 69, LUDGATE HILL.
EDINBURGH AND DUBLIN

A SERIES OF
PICTURESQUE VIEWS OF
SEATS
OF
THE NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.
WITH DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL LETTERPRESS.

EDITED BY
THE REV. F. O. MORRIS, B.A.,
AUTHOR OF A "HISTORY OF BRITISH BIRDS," DEDICATED BY PERMISSION TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
SANDRINGHAM.—HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES	1
COMPTON VERNEY.—LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE	3
LAMBTON CASTLE.—EARL OF DURHAM	5
MAMHEAD.—NEWMAN, BARONET	7
KEELE HALL.—SNEYD	9
SHIRBURN CASTLE.—EARL OF MACCLESFIELD	11
WYNYARD PARK.—MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY	13
HUTTON HALL.—PEASE	15
MUNCASTER CASTLE.—LORD MUNCASTER	17
BRANTINGHAM THORPE.—SYKES	19
HELMINGHAM HALL.—BARON TOLLEMACHE	21
TRAFALGAR HOUSE.—EARL NELSON	23
BROUGHTON CASTLE.—LORD SAYE AND SELE	25
STOWLANGTOFT HALL.—WILSON	27
CAPESTHORNE.—DAVENPORT	29
POWERSCOURT.—VISCOUNT POWERSCOURT	31
STUDLEY CASTLE.—WALKER	33
ESHTON HALL.—WILSON, BARONET	35
CAEN WOOD TOWERS.—BROOKE	37
BIRR CASTLE.—EARL OF ROSSE	39
ARBURY HALL.—NEWDEGATE	41
WROXTON ABBEY.—NORTH	43
COUGHTON COURT.—THROCKMORTON, BARONET	45
EUSTON HALL.—DUKE OF GRAFTON	47

	PAGE
SEZINCOT.—RUSHOUT, BARONET.	49
KIMBOLTON CASTLE.—DUKE OF MANCHESTER	51
WESTONBIRT HOUSE.—HOLFORD	53
WOLSELEY HALL.—WOLSELEY, BARONET	55
DARTREY.—EARL OF DARTREY	57
MEREVALE HALL.—DUGDALE	59
BESTWOOD LODGE.—DUKE OF ST. ALBANS	61
ROSSMORE PARK.—LORD ROSSMORE	63
PHILIPHAUGH.—MURRAY, BARONET	65
WYNNSTAY.—WILLIAMS-WYNN, BARONET	67
MORETON HALL.—ACKERS	69
HENGRAVE HALL.—GAGE	71
EASTON HALL.—CHOLMELEY, BARONET	73
PRESTON HALL.—BRASSEY	75
LAWTON HALL.—LAWTON	77
ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.—ST. AUBYN, BARONET. (<i>Vignette Title-page.</i>)	79

THE COUNTY SEATS.

SANDRINGHAM,

NEAR LYNN, NORFOLK.—HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

I HAVE often thought to myself how truly the words of Gray, in his "Elegy in a Country Churchyard,"—the most beautiful poem, in my judgment, that ever has been or ever will be written in the English language,—apply to others as well as to

"the rude forefathers of the hamlet"

in any and every remote corner of the country throughout the length and breadth of the land. Not only has it been true of those of humble rank that

"Adown the cool sequestered vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenour of their way,"

but it has been the same—this it is that I have frequently noticed to myself—with others of every degree above them, even to the highest.

Many and many a head of an ancient and honourable family is there at the present time, both titled and untitled, of whose name even not one person in every ten thousand you would ordinarily meet with has ever heard. But they are known, and well known, in their own neighbourhoods. They are content to live a "quiet and peaceable life," "the world forgetting, by the world forgot;" and to "do their duty in that state of life unto which it has pleased God to call them" is the height of their ambition. Theirs is a happy and a useful career. They live among their tenantry, have a care for their welfare, and set them a good example: they do that which "England expects of every man."

It is not that it has always continued to be so, or does still, or must always thus continue. From time to time a Milton is no longer mute, and a "village Hampden"

of "dauntless breast" stands forward on the stage of the world's history, and leaves an undying name behind him, soon, if not at once, to be followed by those who will retire, from choice it may be, into that "quiet living" in the country, which is the happiest state that a man can live in.

Thus it was with the family of Cromwell himself. His ancestors, though respectable, lived as quiet country gentlemen, "unnoticed and unknown," "guiltless of their country's blood," and his son wisely gave up the crown to its rightful owner, and, having retired into private life, so died as he had lived. Thus it was with Wellington, with Nelson, with Shakespeare, and with Scott, and with those who went before and those who followed them, and so doubtless it will be age after age.

And as it has been with persons, so also with places, the latter indeed only through the former: the name of the "local habitation" obtains its own celebrity on account of that of him whose words or deeds have made it famous at one and the same time that he has immortalized his own.

I have been led to make this remark in carrying on the second set of these volumes, beginning, as it properly does, with the present account of the residence of the eldest son of the reigning Sovereign, from having similarly observed in the previous one that the Royal residence of Balmoral, as the Queen's abode, has now its name known in every corner of the earth, whereas before it became so, it was absolutely unheard of and altogether unknown beyond its own immediate neighbourhood.

So it has been with Sandringham, the private seat of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Who does not know its name now? Who ever heard of it before?

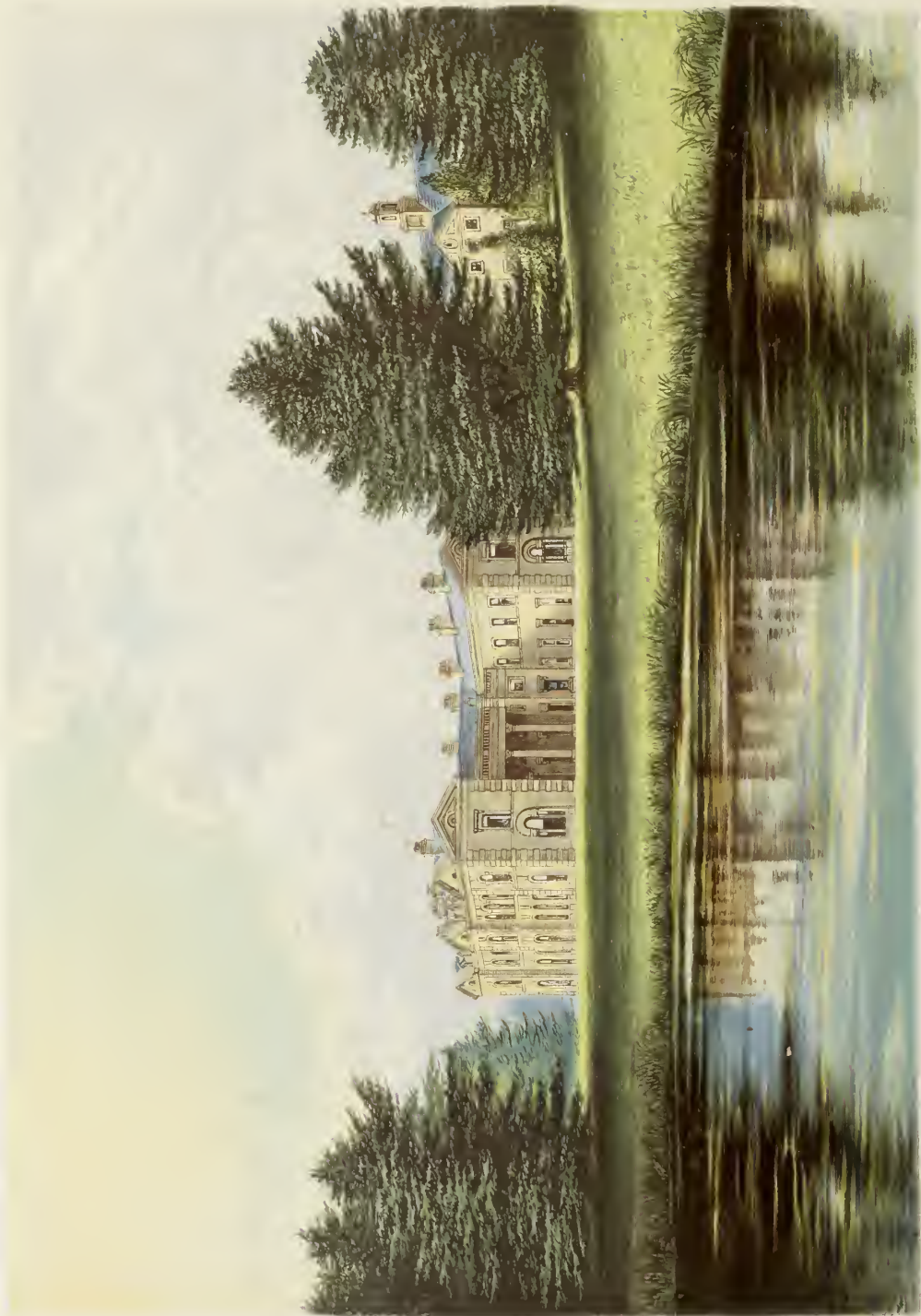
I need not say much, either of the place itself or of its Royal owner, for the picture of it will I hope convey a good idea of the former to my readers, and the eldest son of the Queen of England has already a world-wide history, and needs no other to be written of him, or of the princely race of which he has come.

In "Domesday Book" the name of the place appears as Santdersincham, which seems to point to a common origin with that of the adjoining parish of Dersingham.

The village lies a little way from the foot of some sand hills, which no doubt have given to it its distinguishing name, and the grounds of the house have the customary attractions of English scenery, hill and dale, wood and water. The Church and Rectory adjoin the place, embowered in foliage, the common accompaniment in like manner of the retired country Parsonage.

On a clear day the noble tower of Boston Church is plainly to be seen, standing up as it does from the level plain to which it is such a great and striking ornament, as if from the neighbouring ocean itself, a well-known landmark as it at the same time is to those that "go down to the sea in ships, and occupy their business in great waters."

Nothing but good taste could be looked for from the son of the late Prince Consort, and such an expectation will be found to have been met and fulfilled in the improvements that have been made at Sandringham by the Prince of Wales.



COMPTON VILLAGE

COMPTON VERNEY,

NEAR KINETON, WARWICKSHIRE.—LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE.

“COMPTON MURDALE” being the original name of this place, the derivation of it is thus given by Dugdale in his “History of Warwickshire:”—“This taking its name, as all other Comptons do, from the situation in or near some deep valley, hath had the addition of Murdale to distinguish it from the many other Comptons in this county, in the regard that the family of Murdale were antiently owners thereof.” The word ‘Compton’ is, in fact, there can be no doubt, a combination of the two words ‘coombe’ and ‘town,’ the former indicating a valley, or glen, in which sense it is very commonly used in Devonshire, as also more or less in other counties. Thus in Yorkshire a narrow gorge of this kind, appropriately called “Cleaving Coombe,” occurs on the road between Nunburnholme and Londesborough. At what date the name was changed to that of Compton Verney there is no certainty, but in all probability it was at the time of the house being rebuilt, as Dugdale writes of it in one of his three volumes, published respectively in the years 1655, 1661, and 1673, as Compton Murdale.

In the time of William the Conqueror it belonged to
EARL NELLENT, from whom it came to his brother,
HENRY DE NEWBURGH, Earl of Warwick, whose son and successor,
ROGER, Earl of Warwick, towards the latter part of the reign of Henry the First, granted it to

ROBERT MURDALE and his heirs. It remained in the possession of this family until the reign of Henry the Sixth, when it appears to have passed into the hands of

RICHARD VERNEY ESQ., (a member of a Worcestershire family,) who built a large part of the house as it stood until about 1770. This Richard Verney was afterwards Knighted for services done to the king. In 1695,

SIR RICHARD VERNEY, the then owner of Compton Verney, having married Margaret Greville (sister and heir to Fulke Greville, Lord Broke,) claimed, through her, and obtained the Barony of Willoughby de Broke, the title now held by the present owner.

The old house and chapel were completely rebuilt by John Verney, Lord Willoughby de Broke, about the year above named; he also laid out the grounds much as they now remain.

The house stands in a very picturesque situation, but beyond a fine entrance hall,

which runs nearly the whole length of the building, there is nothing remarkable in the interior. The stained glass windows in the chapel (taken from the original one) are many of them curious and of great antiquity.

There are here some fine paintings: among others, one of Sir R. Heath, by Jansen; another of Queen Elizabeth; one of Sir Fulke Greville, Lord Broke; besides other good family portraits.

The pleasure grounds are extensive, presenting a variety of surface, and abounding in wood as well as water, without which in combination no landscape, however beautiful in itself, is complete.

The line of descent of the title in this ancient family is as follows:—

SIR RICHARD VERNEY, of Compton Murdale, married Margaret, sole heiress of her brother, Lord Broke.

SIR GREVILLE VERNEY.

SIR RICHARD VERNEY, restored to the Barony of WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE, as tenth Baron.

THE HONOURABLE AND REV. GEORGE VERNEY, eleventh Baron.

RICHARD VERNEY, twelfth Baron.

JOHN PEYTO VERNEY, thirteenth Baron.

JOHN PEYTO VERNEY, fourteenth Baron.

HENRY PEYTO VERNEY, fifteenth Baron.

ROBERT JOHN VERNEY, sixteenth Baron.

HENRY VERNEY, seventeenth Baron.



LAMBTON CASTLE,

DURHAM.—EARL OF DURHAM.

LAMBTON CASTLE, built from the designs of Ignatius Bonomi, on the site of Harraton Hall—anciently the residence of the D'Arcys and Hedworths—occupies an eminence overhanging the river Wear, and is almost completely sheltered by the woods which crown the valley. On the west, where the banks recede, the hills of the moors are seen bounding the horizon.

The bridge, erected by John George Lambton, Esq., over the river in the valley beneath the castle, from whence it is visible, forms a beautiful feature in the landscape.

The rooms of the castle, arranged with great elegance and attention to comfort, contain many valuable paintings, among which are two by Domenichino, one by Bassano, one by Titian, one by Raphael, two by Bothe, one by Salvator Rosa, one by Giorgione, one by Baroccio, one by Breughels; etc., etc., and several excellent pictures by Glover and other English artists.

The demesne was in the possession of the Lambtons before the Conquest, and has remained in that family through an uninterrupted line of succession.

The well known story of the Lambton eft, water-wyvern, or water snake, is thus told by Surtees:—"The heir of Lambton, fishing, as was his profane custom, in the Wear, on a Sunday, hooked a small worm, or eft, which he carelessly threw into a well, and thought no more of the adventure. The worm (at first neglected) grew till it was too large for its first habitation, and issuing from the Worm Well, betook itself to the Wear, where it usually lay a part of the day coiled round a crag in the middle of the water; it also frequented a green mound near the well (the Worm Hill), where it lapped itself nine times round, leaving vermicular traces, of which grave living witnesses depose that they have seen the vestiges. It now became the terror of the country, and, amongst other enormities, levied a daily contribution of nine cows' milk, which was always placed for it at the green hill, and in default of which it devoured man and beast. Young Lambton had, it seems, meanwhile totally repented him of his former life and conversation, had bathed himself in a bath of holy water, taken the sign of the Cross, and joined the Crusaders. On his return home, he was extremely shocked at witnessing the effects of his youthful imprudences, and immediately undertook the adventure. After several fierce combats, in which

the Crusader was foiled by his enemy's power of self-union, he found it expedient to add policy to courage, and not perhaps possessing much of the former, he went to consult a witch, or wise woman.

"By her judicious advice, he armed himself in a coat of mail studded with razor-blades; and thus prepared, placed himself on the crag in the river, and awaited the monster's arrival. At the usual time, the worm came to the rock and wound himself with great fury round the armed knight, who had the satisfaction to see his enemy cut in pieces by his own efforts, whilst the stream, washing away the severed parts, prevented the possibility of re-union. There is still a sequel to the story: the witch had promised Lambton success only on one condition,—that he should slay the first living thing which met his sight after the victory. To avoid the possibility of human slaughter, Lambton had directed his father that as soon as he heard him sound three blasts on his bugle in token of the achievement performed, he should release his favourite greyhound, which would immediately fly to the sound of the horn, and was destined to be the sacrifice. On hearing his son's bugle, however, the old chief was so overjoyed that he forgot the injunction, and ran himself with open arms to meet his son. Instead of committing a parricide, the conqueror again repaired to his adviser, who pronounced as the alternative of disobeying the original instructions, that no chief of the Lambtons should die in his bed for seven, or (as some accounts say,) for nine generations—a commutation which to a martial spirit had nothing very terrible, and which was willingly complied with."

On this legend Sir Bernard Burke remarks:—"The subject matter of the exploit may be equally a Danish rover, a domestic tyrant, or, as in the well-known case of the Dragon of Wantley, a villainous overgrown lawyer, endowed with all the venom, maw, and speed of a flying eft, whom the gallant 'Moor of Moor Hall' slew 'with nothing at all' but the aid of a good conscience and a 'fair maid of sixteen.'"



MAMHEAD,

NEAR EXMOUTH, DEVONSHIRE.—NEWMAN, BARONET.

THE palatial seat of Sir Lydston Newman, Bart., though perhaps not so picturesque as his favourite marine residence of Stokeley.

Mamhead, in Domesday Book "Mameorde," is thus pronounced by the common people at this very day. It appears to mean "head-land."

The beauties of the site may be gathered from the subjoined extract from "A Poem written at Mamhead beneath an evergreen oak in 1785," by the Rev. R. Polwhele.

"Here, Laura, rest, our wearied feet have strayed
From the proud obelisk that fronts the scene
Of many a tufted hill, whose bolder green
The sweet perspective mixed in mellow shade,
While sparkling through the stately fir-trees played
The burnished hamlets of the vale between;
And all the misty bosom of the glade
Seemed opening to the azure sea serene."

The mansion was rebuilt in 1832 by the father of the present Baronet, from a design by Anthony Salvin. It is composed of Bath stone, very skilfully wrought. The tall chimney stacks and gables, highly ornamented, present a variety of different forms, being relieved by two square and octagonal towers, rising with extremely good effect. There are four fronts to the edifice, uniform in design but varied in detail. The southern front is terminated by a conservatory. The eastern front is exceedingly grand. The large window of the staircase is filled with heraldic designs in painted glass by Willement. The whole building is raised upon terraces, whence the Isle of Portland can be seen in the distance, while in the foreground are the park, Powderham, and the river Exe winding to the channel. The stabling and other offices are built in the castellated style. The architect was evidently acquainted with the principles of taste as developed in the works of the great masters, where an endless variety is found in combination with perfect harmony in the same picture.

The family of Newman is of great antiquity. So early as the reigns of Henry the Sixth and Henry the Seventh, Thomas and William Newman appear from the public records of Dartmouth to have been settled in that town. Over the remains of John Newman, who was buried at St. Petrox, 6th. April, 1640, are to be seen the arms now borne by the family.

The father of the present Baronet, Sir Robert William Newman, married in 1813, Mary Jane, daughter of Richard Denne, Esq., of Winchelsea, in Sussex, by Ann his wife, daughter of the Venerable William Rastall, D.D., Dean of Southwell, a lineal descendant of Chief Justice Rastall.

The ancient family of the Dennes is descended from Ralph de Dene, living in the time of the Conqueror, Lord of Buckhurst, in Sussex, who wedded Sybella, sister of Robert de Gatton, and had a son Robert, his heir, and a daughter Ella, married to Sir J. Sackville, ancestor of the Dukes of Dorset.

Sir Robert William Newman, who was some time M.P. for Exeter, and High Sheriff of the County of Devon in 1827, was created a Baronet March 17th., 1836. He died in 1848, and was succeeded by his son,

Sir Robert Lydston Newman, a Captain in the Grenadier Guards, who fell at the Battle of Inkermann, 5th. November, 1854, and was succeeded by his brother, the present and third Baronet,

Sir Lydston Newman, Deputy-Lieutenant for Devon, late a captain in the 7th. Hussars, and High Sheriff of the County of Devon in 1871. Sir Lydston Newman is married, and, beside daughters, has issue a son, Robert Hunt Stapylton Dudley Lydston Newman, born 1871.



K E R L H A L L .

KEELE HALL,

NEAR NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE, STAFFORDSHIRE.—SNEYD.

THE Manor of Keele was granted by King Henry the Second, A.D. 1180, to the Knights Templars, and on the suppression of that order passed into the possession of the Knights Hospitallers, who held it until their property was confiscated, at the Reformation, by King Henry the Eighth, who sold Keele to Sir William Sneyd, Knight, of Bradwell. His son and heir, Ralph Sneyd, Esq., “built there,” as stated by Erdeswick, “a very proper and fine house of stone,” which was completed in 1581, and of which a view, engraved by Michael Burghers in 1686, is given in Plot’s History of Staffordshire. Keele was plundered during the Civil Wars, and narrowly escaped demolition by Cromwell’s troops, when its then owner, Colonel Ralph Sneyd, who was a devoted adherent to the cause of King Charles the First, suffered heavy losses on account of his loyalty.

The old hall was finally taken down in 1855, by the late Ralph Sneyd, Esq., who re-erected on its site, and in the same style of architecture, the present noble mansion.

Keele Hall is built of a pale red sandstone, relieved with white stone. It is finely situated on elevated ground, commanding extensive views to the south and west, and is surrounded by a well-wooded park of six hundred acres. The gardens and pleasure grounds are extensive, and well kept.

The house, which is entered from a court, through a spacious hall, thirty feet high, and hung with family portraits, contains a fine suite of rooms, richly furnished and decorated, and stored with many precious works of art. The library is extensive and valuable, comprising a rare collection of ancient manuscripts. The house also contains a good collection of pictures by the old masters; amongst which may be mentioned original full-length portraits of Cortez; of King Henry the Eighth; Charles the First, by Honthorst; a Duke of Ferrara, by Zuccherro; Lorenzo Priuli, Doge of Venice, by Tintoretto; Ralph Sneyd, the builder of the old house, by Cornelius Jansen; two portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds; besides many choice cabinet pictures of the English, Flemish, and Italian schools.

The ancient family of Sneyd, which has continued during six centuries in direct male descent from Henry de Sneyde, who lived in the reign of King Edward the First, was formerly seated at Bradwell, in the parish of Wolstanton, but removed from thence, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, to Keele, which has ever since been the chief family residence.

The genealogy of this old family in a direct line is as follows:—

HENRY DE SNEYDE, of Sneyde and Tunstall, living in 1310, married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Nicholas de Tunstall, by whom he had

NICHOLAS DE SNEYDE, *alias* Tunstall. He was father of

RICHARD DE TUNSTALL, *alias* Sneyde. His son and heir,

RICHARD SNEYDE, of Bradwell and Tunstall, was followed by

WILLIAM SNEYDE, of Bradwell, who was succeeded by his son,

RICHARD SNEYDE, of Bradwell, who, by Agnes his wife, was father of

NICHOLAS SNEYDE, of Bradwell, living in 1473. He married Margaret, daughter and coheiress of Robert Downes, of Shrigley, Cheshire, and left a son,

WILLIAM SNEYDE, of Chester, who married Johanna, daughter and heiress of Roger Ledsham, Gentleman, of Chester, and had with other children,

RICHARD SNEYDE, of Bradwell, Recorder of Chester, who, by his wife, Anne Fowlehurst, of Crewe, had an eldest son,

SIR WILLIAM SNEYDE, Knight, of Bradwell, High Sheriff of Staffordshire, 3 Edward VI., and 5 and 6 Philip and Mary. He married, first, Anne, daughter and heiress of Thomas Barrowe, Esq., of Flookersbrooke, near Chester, and had by her,

RALPH SNEYDE, of Keele and Bradwell, born in 1564, High Sheriff, 18 and 37 Elizabeth, who, by his first wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Chetwynd, of Ingestrie, had a son and heir,

RALPH SNEYDE, of Bradwell and Keele, who married Felicia, daughter of Nicholas Archbald, of Uttoxeter. Their son,

RALPH SNEYDE, of Keele and Bradwell, Colonel in the Royal Army, married Jane, daughter of Roger Downes, Esq., of Wordley, and had

WILLIAM SNEYD, of Keele, born in 1612. His wife was Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Robert Audeley, of Gransden, in Huntingdonshire, and by her he had

RALPH SNEYD, of Keele, married to Frances, daughter of Sir Robert Dryden, Bart., of Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire, and had

RALPH SNEYD, of Bradwell, born December 22nd., 1669, who married Frances, daughter of Sir William Noel, Bart., of Kirkby Mallory, in the county of Leicester, and dying before his father, had a son, heir to the latter,

RALPH SNEYD, of Keele, baptized in May, 1692, who married Anne, daughter of Allen Halford, Esq., of Davenham, Cheshire, whose surviving son,

RALPH SNEYD, of Keele, born in 1723, married, in 1749, Barbara, daughter of Sir Walter Longstaffe, Bart., and by her had, with other children,

WALTER SNEYD, of Keele, born February 11th., 1752, M.P. for Castle Rising, High Sheriff of Staffordshire, 1814, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Staffordshire Militia. He married, May 9th., 1786, the Honourable Louisa Bagot, daughter of William, first Lord Bagot, and had

RALPH SNEYD, of Keele, D.L., born October 9th., 1793, High Sheriff of Staffordshire, 1844, who died unmarried July, 1870, and was followed by his brother,

THE REV. WALTER SNEYD, M.A., F.S.A., born July 23rd., 1809, married, October 14th., 1856, Henrietta Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Malone Sneyd, Esq., of Cherryvale, in the county of Donegal, and has with other children a son, RALPH, born December 10th., 1863.



PIPERN CASTLE

SHIRBURN CASTLE,

NEAR TETSWORTH, OXFORDSHIRE.—EARL OF MACCLESFIELD.

LELAND writes, "Shirburne, within a mile of Wathelington church, where is a strong pile, or castlet, longed to Quatremain, since to Fowler, and by exchange, now to Chamberlain of Oxfordshire."

Camden states, that "the Chamberlains were descended from the Earls of Tankervil, who, bearing the office of Chamberlain to the Dukes of Normandy, their posterity, laying aside the old name of Tankervil, called themselves Chamberlain, from the said office which their ancestors enjoyed."

It appears, that, in the fifty-first year of Edward the Third, Sir Wariner de L'Isle, Knight, obtained permission to build a castle at Shirburn, where his ancestor, Wariner de L'Isle, in the tenth year of the same king, had a charter of free-warren, and leave to enclose one hundred acres of woodland for a park.

Shirburn Castle is nearly in the form of a parallelogram, and the whole building is encompassed by a broad and deep moat. The approaches are over three draw-bridges, and the chief entrance is guarded by a portcullis. At each angle of the edifice is a circular tower. Flat ranges of stone-building occupy the intervals, and along the whole top is an embattled parapet.

In the twelfth volume of the "Beauties of England and Wales," Mr. Brewer, the able writer of the account of Oxfordshire, states, that "the interior of Shirburn Castle is disposed in a style of modern elegance and comfort that contains no allusion to the external castellated character of the structure, with an exception of one long room fitted up as an armoury. On the sides of this apartment are hung various pieces of mail, together with shields, tilting-spears, and offensive arms, of modern as well as ancient date. The rooms are in general well proportioned, but not of very large dimensions. There are two capacious libraries, well furnished with books, and tastefully adorned with paintings and sculpture. Among the portraits are several of the Lord Chancellor Macclesfield, and an original of Catharine Parr, Queen to Henry the Eighth. She is represented standing behind a highly embellished vacant chair, with her hand on the back. Her dress is black, richly ornamented with precious stones. The fingers are loaded with rings; and in one hand is a handkerchief, edged with deep lace. Inserted in the lower part of the frame, and carefully covered with glass, is an interesting appendage to this portrait: a piece of hair cut from the head of Catharine Parr, in the year 1799, when her coffin was

opened at Sudeley Castle. The hair is auburn, and matches exactly with that delineated in the picture.

Shirburn Castle was honoured with a visit from the Queen and Princesses, in the summer of 1808."

GEORGE PARKER, Esq., of Park Hall, in Staffordshire, was father of

THOMAS PARKER, Esq., of Leke, in the same county, whose son was

THOMAS PARKER, first Earl of Macclesfield, who may be considered as the founder of the family. The castle and manor of Shirburn were purchased at the commencement of the last century by him. He was bred to the law, called to the degree of Sergeant in 1705, constituted Chief Justice of the King's Bench 1709-10, by Queen Anne, and appointed Lord Chancellor by George the First in 1718. He was created Baron Macclesfield, March 9th., 1716, and advanced to the dignity of Viscount Parker and Earl of Macclesfield, November 15th., 1721. He died in 1732, having married Janet, daughter and coheirress of Charles Carrier, Esq., of Wirkworth, in Derbyshire. His son,

GEORGE PARKER, the second Earl, was President of the Royal Society, and LL.D. of the University of Oxford, and was chiefly remarkable for the part which he took in the alteration of the style in 1750. He was also author of "Remarks on the Polar and Lunar Years," etc. He married, first, 1722, Mary, elder daughter and coheirress of Ralph Lane, Esq., an eminent Turkey merchant.

THOMAS PARKER, the third Earl, who succeeded to the title, March 17th., 1764, married, December 12th., 1749, his cousin Mary, eldest daughter of Sir William Heathcote, Bart., and had issue two sons and two daughters. He dying February 9th., 1795, was succeeded by his eldest son,

GEORGE PARKER, fourth Earl, who married, May 25th., 1780, Mary Frances, daughter and coheirress of the Rev. Thomas Drake, D.D., Rector of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, but having no son, was succeeded in the title by his only brother,

THOMAS PARKER, fifth Earl, born June 9th., 1763, High Steward of Henley, who married, first, the eldest daughter of Lewis Edwards, Esq., of Talgarth, by whom he had four daughters; and secondly, March 19th., 1807, Eliza, youngest daughter of William Breton-Wolstenholme, Esq., of Holly Hill, Sussex, and left with two daughters, a son,

THOMAS AUGUSTUS WOLSTENHOLME PARKER, born March 17th., 1811, who succeeded as sixth Earl.



WYNYARD PARK,

NEAR STOCKTON-ON-TEES, DURHAM.—MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY.

WYNYARD PARK is the principal residence of the Marquis of Londonderry, whose father, Charles, the third Marquis, became possessed of Wynyard, and large estates and collieries in the county of Durham, by his marriage with the Lady Frances Anne Vane Tempest, only child of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, Bart., and the Countess of Antrim.

The park, about two thousand acres in extent, affords much varied and beautiful scenery, with some fine views of the Cleveland Hills in Yorkshire.

About the centre of the park, and on the margin of a large artificial lake, whose sloping banks are planted with a great variety of evergreens and other ornamental trees, stands the house, a large and splendid mansion of Corinthian architecture, erected by the late Marquis on the site of an older seat.

The north front is graced by a portico, consisting of twelve handsome columns surmounted by an entablature.

The sculpture gallery, a magnificent apartment one hundred feet long and fifty-eight feet high, which forms the centre of the mansion, is octagonal, and has a double dome, with a lantern of very beautiful stained glass in the centre.

The south front measures three hundred feet in length. It looks over large and handsome terraces, and down upon the lake, which is here spanned by a very graceful chain bridge.

About a quarter of a mile from the mansion are the gardens, which cover a space of thirteen acres, in addition to the extensive pleasure grounds.

Wynyard Park is seven miles distant from the town of Stockton-on-Tees, the border river between the county of Durham and Yorkshire.

The descent of the family of the Marquis of Londonderry is as follows:—

JOHN STEWART, Esq., of Ballylawn Castle, in the County of Donegal, the first of his family who settled in Ireland, was succeeded at his decease by his eldest son,

CHARLES STEWART, Esq., whose great great grandson,

ALEXANDER STEWART, Esq., of Mount Stewart, in the County of Down, born in the year 1709, married the 30th. of June, 1737, Mary, only surviving daughter of Alderman John Cowan, of Londonderry, and sister and heiress of Sir Robert Cowan, Knight, Governor of Bombay, and had, with other children,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT STEWART, of Mount Stewart and Ballylawn Castle, who was raised to the Peerage of Ireland, November 18th., 1789, as BARON STEWART, and subsequently was further elevated, October 6th., 1795, as VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH; afterwards, August 10th., 1796, as EARL OF LONDONDERRY, and on the 22nd. of January, 1816, MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY. He married first, in 1766, the Honourable Sarah Frances Seymour, second daughter of Francis, first Marquis of Hertford, by whom he had ROBERT, VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH, his successor, and secondly, in 1775, Frances, eldest daughter of Charles, first Earl Camden, by whom he had, with other issue, CHARLES WILLIAM STEWART, third Marquis. He died April 8th., 1821, and was succeeded by the son of his first marriage,

ROBERT STEWART, second Marquis, who married in 1794, the Honourable Emily Anne Hobart, youngest daughter and coheirress of John, second Earl of Buckinghamshire, but had no children, and was followed by his half brother,

CHARLES WILLIAM STEWART, K.G., third Marquis, born May 18th., 1778, who married first, August 8th., 1804, the Honourable Catherine Bligh, youngest daughter of John, third Earl of Darnley, by whom he had a son,

FREDERICK WILLIAM ROBERT STEWART, fourth Marquis of Londonderry, who married April 30th., 1846, Lady Powerscourt, widow of Richard, sixth Viscount Powerscourt, and daughter of Robert, third Earl of Roden, but had no children.

He married, secondly, as above stated, April 3rd., 1819, Lady Frances Anne Tempest, only daughter and heiress of SIR HENRY VANE TEMPEST, BART., on which occasion he assumed the surname and arms of VANE. He was created, on the 8th. of July, 1823, EARL VANE, with remainder to the issue of his second wife, by whom he had

GEORGE HENRY ROBERT CHARLES STEWART, VISCOUNT SEAHAM and second EARL VANE, who on the death of his half brother succeeded as fifth MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY. He married, August 3rd., 1846, Mary Cornelia, only daughter of Sir John Edwards, Bart.



HUTTON HALL.





HUTTON HALL,

NEAR GUISBOROUGH, YORKSHIRE.—PEASE.

HUTTON HALL was erected by Mr. Joseph Whitwell Pease, M.P., from the designs of Mr. Waterhouse, the architect. The estate on which it is built was bought of Mr. George Reed, of Whitby, of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Crown. The style is domestic Gothic of an early type. The house is built of red brick with stone facings, the south front commanding a view of the very picturesque Cleveland hills. The portion of the estate surrounding the mansion was comprised in the grant of Edward the Sixth of the Abbey lands of Guisborough to Mr. Thomas Chaloner, and is endorsed as follows:—"Copy of the Letters patent of Demesnes of Gisburne. Deliver this to Mr. Thomas Chaloner, or Mr. James Chaloner, at Mr. Pereye's house in the White Harte Court in Fleete Streete." In this amongst other things he demises, "All that one messuage and tenement or mansion ealled Hoton Hall, enclosed with a stone wall, and also, all that one close of land ealled Hoton Greate Close."

Not far from the present mansion there was formerly a spital or hospital belonging to the Priory of Guisborough, founded by William de Bernaldy for lepers, in which the Lord of Hutton had the right to place one leper.

A small Cistercian Nunnery was founded at Hoton (Hutton Low Cross) by Ralph de Neville. It was afterwards removed to Nunthorpe, and from there to Baxdale, in the parish of Stokesley.

The Prior and Canons of Guisborough remained Lords of Hutton till the dissolution, when with vast quantities of Church land it went to the Crown, and so remained till purchased by the above-named proprietor, who thus became Lord of the Manors of Hutton Low Cross and Pinchingthorpe.

EDWARD PEASE married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Michael Coates, and was father of

JOSEPH PEASE, who married Mary Richardson, and died April 3rd., 1808, leaving a son,

EDWARD PEASE, born January 6th., 1767, whose wife was Rachel, daughter of John Whitwell, and died July 31st., 1858, having had, with several other children,

JOSEPH PEASE, Esq., M.P. for South Durham from 1832 to 1841. He married,

March 30th., 1826, Emma, youngest daughter and co-heiress of Joseph Gurney, Esq., of Lakenham Grove, Norwich, and had a large family, of whom the eldest son,

JOSEPH WHITWELL PEASE, born June 23rd., 1828, married, August 23rd., 1854, Mary, daughter of Alfred Fox, Esq., of Falmouth.



HENRICAST CASTLE

MUNCASTER CASTLE,

NEAR RAVENGLASS, CUMBERLAND.—LORD MUNCASTER.

MUNCASTER CASTLE was originally built by the Romans to guard a ford over the river Esk, which runs immediately beneath it. One tower of the old castle remains entire, and has been inhabited ever since; some foundations and walls of the other towers exist. It has lately been restored by Mr. Salvin. The old moat and other out-buildings can still be traced. From its situation a mile and a half from the sea, and half way up Muncaster fell, it commands the pass over Hardknot and the low ground by the sea. It came into the possession of the Pennington family about the time of the Norman Conquest, and they then removed to it from Pennington-in-Furness, where the site of the old Saxon encampment still remains.

Muncaster Castle has been their principal residence, descending from father to son, since the Conquest. King Henry the Sixth stopped here after the battle of Hexham, when a fugitive, and on leaving he gave a glass cup to Sir John Pennington, out of which the family have ever since been baptized. It is still unbroken, and is commonly called "The Luck of Muncaster."

The plan of the Castle in former days was four square towers connected by a longer building, enclosing a quadrangle with moat and gatehouse and chapel. From a terrace beautiful views up the valley of the Esk ending in Scaw-fell are seen. The church is very old, but was thoroughly restored by Josslyn, fifth Lord Muncaster, and contains the tombs of most of the Pennington family.

In lineal descent from the above-named SIR JOHN DE PENNINGTON, was

WILLIAM PENNINGTON, ESQ., of Muncaster, created a Baronet June 21st., 1676. He married Isabel, eldest daughter of John Stapleton, Esq., and had issue, with other children, his heir,

SIR JOSEPH PENNINGTON, BART., M.P. for the county of Cumberland. He married the Honourable Margaret Lowther, daughter of John, first Viscount Lonsdale, and had two sons, of whom the elder,

SIR JOHN PENNINGTON, BART., M.P. for Cumberland, and Lord Lieutenant for the county of Westmoreland, dying without issue, was succeeded by his brother,

SIR JOSEPH PENNINGTON, BART., who married Sarah, daughter and heiress of John Moore, Esq., of Somersetshire, by whom he had

SIR JOHN PENNINGTON, BART., who was created a peer of Ireland October 21st., 1783, as BARON MUNCASTER. He married Penelope, daughter and heiress of James Crompton, Esq., and died in 1813, leaving no male issue, when the title devolved, by remainder, to his brother,

SIR LOWTHER PENNINGTON, second Baron, a General Officer in the Army. He married in 1802, Esther, second daughter of Thomas Barry, Esq., of Clapham, Surrey, and widow of James Morrison, Esq., by whom he left at his decease, in 1818, an only son,

SIR LOWTHER AUGUSTUS JOHN PENNINGTON, third Baron, born December 14th., 1802, married, December 15th., 1828, Frances Catherine, youngest daughter of Sir John Ramsden, Bart., and by her had

SIR GAMEL AUGUSTUS PENNINGTON, fourth Baron, who married, August 2nd., 1855, Lady Jane Grosvenor, daughter of Robert, first Marquis of Westminster, but died, leaving only a daughter, June 13th., 1862, and was succeeded by his next brother,

SIR JOSSLYN PENNINGTON, fifth Baron, M.P. for West Cumberland. He married, April 9th., 1863, Constance, daughter of Edmund L'Estrange, Esq., of the county of Sligo.



FRANKINGHAM HOUSE

BRANTINGHAM THORPE,

NEAR BROUGH, YORKSHIRE.—SYKES.

BRANTINGHAM THORPE stands on a high terrace commanding a most extensive and beautiful view of the course of the river Humber for more than twenty miles, and of the Vale of York, broken by the towns of Howden and Selby, the spire of Heminborough, and on the opposite side of the river the wooded hills of Lincolnshire.

The present house, a long uneven structure of grey stone, broken by gables and balustrades, is of various dates. The porch and the centre of the house date from Elizabeth's reign, during which one Anthony Smetheby, "Dominus de Brantingham," as he is described on a brass plate in the Church, bearing his arms, lived and died there, A.D. 1574. His daughters and co-heiresses married into the Sotheby, of Birdsall, and the Ellerker families.

The house was added to by the late owner, Captain Shawe, and largely increased by the present proprietor.

The dining-room, panelled with oak, is enriched by five landscapes painted in Italy by Jolly, at the order of the great Lord Chesterfield, for the grand drawing-room at Chesterfield House, in the beginning of the last century, and a sixth one of the Ponte di Trinità, at Florence, by Marlow, of the same date.

The library boasts an almost complete collection of topographical works relating to the county of York, and more especially to the East Riding.

The entrance to the grounds is about a mile from the Brough station on the North-Eastern line, flanked by a lodge, recently erected in the Elizabethan style, and in good keeping with the hall. The drive is through well undulated park scenery, with a considerable slope from north-east to south-west. As it gradually rises, a charming view of the river and of the Lincolnshire coast expands, till, when you reach the natural terrace on which the house stands, you command a lovely panoramic view of the fine estuary of the sea, known as the river Humber, but, seeing that it is here fully three miles wide, and viewed from the terrace lengthwise is seen for a distance of at least twelve miles through which it retains the same width, at that point branching into the Trent and the Ouse right and left, it realises, with the foreground beautifully broken by the groups of trees in the park, the idea of a lake of almost unlimited extent. There is, indeed, no site of such commanding beauty in the East Riding.

The hall stands at an elevation of some two hundred feet or more above the level of the river, and the hills rise above it to a similar height, clothed with massive plantations, broken every here and there with ordinary fields, which, in some cases, lose themselves over the crown of the hills, thus giving distance and variety to the

landscape. The hall is Elizabethan in style, built of stone, covered with ivy, roses, etc. Fronting the house is a terrace, about fifty feet wide, bounded by a low parapet-wall. Two Wellingtonias, planted on a knoll at the south-east end of the house, are interesting, as *souvenirs* of a Royal visit, having been planted by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, July 21st., 1869. They show every prospect of making noble ornamental trees. The ground rises rapidly at the back of the hall, by a terraced slope of some ten feet in height, reached by a flight of steps, and on this higher level is the flower garden.

The following is the account of the descent of the family, as recorded in Burke's "Peerage and Baronetage." He states that the family came originally from Saxony.

WALTER SYKES, of Sykes Dyke, in the county of Cumberland.

WALTER SYKES, of Sykes Dyke, *tempore* Henry the Sixth, was father of

WILLIAM SYKES, of Leeds, whose son,

RICHARD SYKES, also of Leeds, had one son,

RICHARD SYKES, Alderman of Leeds, and Lord of the Manor, which he purchased in 1625. He married, January 30th., 1593, Elizabeth Mawson, and had with other issue, a younger son,

WILLIAM SYKES, Lord of the Manor of Leeds, married Grace, daughter and co-heiress of Josias Jenkinson, Esq., of Leeds, and left, among other children,

DANIEL SYKES, Esq., born 1632, Mayor of Hull, and a merchant of eminence there, who left by his wife Deborah, daughter of William Oates, Esq.,

RICHARD SYKES, Esq., born in 1678, also a merchant of Hull. He married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Mark Kirkby, Esq., of Sledmere, and was succeeded by

RICHARD SYKES, Esq., who built the house at Sledmere, married, firstly, Jane Hobman, and, secondly, Mrs. Edge, but died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother,

THE REV. SIR MARK SYKES, Rector of Roos, in the East Riding, born in 1711, who was created a Baronet, March 28th., 1783, leaving, by his wife Decima, daughter of Twyford Woodham, Gent., of Ely,

SIR CHRISTOPHER SYKES, D.C.L., second Baronet, born in 1749, M.P. for Beverley. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Tatton, Esq., of Withenshaw, Cheshire, and was father of

SIR MARK SYKES, third Baronet, whose first wife was Henrietta, daughter and heiress of Henry Masterman, Esq., of Settrington Hall, near Malton. He married, secondly, August 2nd., 1814, Mary Elizabeth, sister of Wilbraham Egerton, Esq., but having no children, was succeeded by his brother,

SIR TATTON SYKES, fourth Baronet, born August 22nd., 1772, who by his wife, Mary Anne, second daughter of Sir William Foulis, Bart., left, with other children,

1. SIR TATTON SYKES, fifth Baronet, whose most munificent acts in the way of building, rebuilding, restoring, endowing, and adorning churches on his very large estates in the East Riding, will be remembered in Yorkshire for generations to come. He married, August 3rd., 1874, Christina Anne Jessie, eldest daughter of George Augustus Cavendish Bentinck, Esq., M.P. for Whitehaven.

2. CHRISTOPHER SYKES, Esq., of Brantingham Thorpe, M.P. for the East Riding.



HELMINGHAM HALL,

NEAR DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.—BARON TOLLEMACHE.

THIS stately residence is situated in the hundred of Bosmere and Claydon, four miles south-east from Debenham, and eight from Ipswich, in a beautiful park, comprehending four hundred acres, which contains some of the finest oak-trees in the county, many of them of great age, and is abundantly stocked with deer, there never being less than seven hundred head, among which are some remarkably large stags.

The Hall has been the principal seat of the family of Tollemache from the period of its erection, and here Sir Lionel Tollemache was honoured by a visit from Queen Elizabeth, for five days, from August 14th. to the 18th. inclusive, in the year 1561. Her Majesty was entertained with great splendour and sumptuous hospitality, and during her visit stood godmother to Sir Lionel's son, and at the same time presented his mother with a lute, which is still preserved.

Very few innovations have been made in the mansion, and, with regard to its exterior appearance, it exists in all its pristine grandeur. It is a quadrangular structure, entirely of brick, environing a court, and completely surrounded by a terrace and moat. The approach is by drawbridges, on the east and south fronts, which are raised every night.

The family flourished in the greatest repute, and in an uninterrupted male succession in this county, from the arrival of the Saxons in this kingdom, to 1821, having borne a conspicuous part in the annals and history of the county for above thirteen hundred years.

HUGH TALMACHE, who subscribed the Charter, *sans date*, but about the reign of King Stephen, of John de St. John, granted to Eve, the first Abbess of Godstowe, in Oxfordshire, is the first of the family on record. In his old age he became a monk at Gloucester, and gave to the Abbey there a moiety of his town of Hampton, which Peter, his son, confirmed in the time of the first Abbot.

WILLIAM TALMACHE gave lands in Bentley and Dodness to the priory of Ipswich, which gifts were confirmed in the reign of King John. In the twenty-fifth year of the reign of Edward the First, Sir Hugh de Tolmache held the Manor of Bentley of the crown, by Knight's Service, *servitium militare*.

SIR LIONEL TOLLEMACHE, of Bentley, who flourished in the reigns of Henry the Sixth

and Edward the Fourth, married the heiress of the family of Helmingham, by which alliance he acquired this estate. His son,

JOHN, was the father of

LIONEL, who most probably built the present edifice. He was High Sheriff of the county, and also of Norfolk, in 1512. In the thirty-eighth year of his reign, King Henry the Eighth granted him the Manors of Wansden, Le Church Hey, Bury Hall, Wyllows, and Overhall to hold of the crown by Knight's service. His son,

LIONEL, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, and was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1567. He married Dorothy, the daughter of Sir Richard Wentworth, of Nettlested, and was the father of

SIR LIONEL TOLLEMACHE, who was High Sheriff of the above-named counties in 1593. His son,

SIR LIONEL, was High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1609, and was advanced to the dignity of a Baronet, at the first institution of that Order in 1611, being the twelfth Baronet in the order of precedency. In 1617 he was again High Sheriff of this county, and married Catharine the daughter of Henry, Lord Cromwell, of Wimbledon. He was succeeded in the title and estate by his son,

SIR LIONEL TOLLEMACHE, BART., who lived in great honour and esteem in the county, and was succeeded by his son,

SIR LIONEL, who married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of William Murray, the first Earl of Dysart, by whom he had a son,

SIR LIONEL TOLLEMACHE, the fourth Baronet, who, on the death of his mother, in 1696, became the second Earl of Dysart, a title derived from the Royal Borough of that name in Fifeshire. By the Act of Union, in 1707, he became a Peer of Great Britain. His Lordship married, in 1680, Grace, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Wilbraham, Bart., of Woodhey, in Cheshire, by which alliance the family became possessed of vast estates in Cheshire. The second brother of this Earl was Thomas Tollemache, a gallant and distinguished officer in the reign of King William the Third. He was killed in an unfortunate attempt to destroy the Harbour of Brest, 30th. June, 1694, and is buried at Helmingham.

The Earl of Dysart died February 3rd., 1726, and was succeeded by his grandson,

LIONEL, the third Earl, who was created a Knight Companion of the most ancient Order of the Thistle, in 1743. His Lordship died in 1770 and was followed by his son,

LIONEL, the fourth Earl of Dysart, who died at Ham House, the 22nd. of February, 1799, aged sixty-three. His honours and estates then came to his brother,

WILBRAHAM, the fifth Earl of Dysart, and Baron Huntingtower of the kingdom of Scotland, and a Baronet, who died at Ham House in 1820, and was succeeded by

LOUISA, Countess of Dysart, who died at Ham House in 1841, when the estates devolved on

JOHN TOLLEMACHE, Esq., for many years M.P. for South Cheshire, created BARON TOLLEMACHE, January 1st., 1876, the son of Admiral Tollemache, nephew of Wilbraham, fifth Earl of Dysart, and Lady Elizabeth Tollemache, daughter of John, third Earl of Aldborough.



TRAFALGAR HOUSE,

(LATE STANDLYNCH,) NEAR SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE.—EARL NELSON.

MR. VANDEPUT purchased the property of the Bucklands of Standlynch, pulled down the old house in the valley, and built the present structure in 1733. The property was purchased in 1814 under an Act of Parliament for the heirs of the conqueror of Trafalgar. The wings were built by Mr. Dawkins, who purchased the building of Sir William Young, to whom the Vandeputs sold it, and a portico by Rivett was added in 1766. The hall, a cube of thirty feet, is decorated with a profusion of stone carving. The walls of one of the rooms were painted by Cipriani, representing the family of Sir William Young.

In the park are noble woods of beech, and near the river side is a chapel, rebuilt in the seventeenth century, said to have been founded as early as 1147. Adjoining Trafalgar House is Barford, now a farm-house, purchased by the late Earl Nelson, and formerly the residence of Lord Feversham.

WILLIAM NELSON, living in the time of Edward the Sixth, came out of Lancashire and settled in Norfolk. He was father of

THOMAS NELSON, of Scarning, Norfolk, born there about the year 1600, whose son, EDMUND NELSON, also born at Scarning in 1625, was father of

WILLIAM NELSON, of Dunham Parva, Norfolk, born at Scarning in 1654, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Shene, of the same place, and by her left, at his death, January 27th., 1713, three sons, of whom the youngest was

THE REV. EDMUND NELSON, M.A., Vicar of Sporle, and Rector of Hilborough, Norfolk, born 1693, who married Mary, daughter of Mr. John Bland, of Cambridge, and had by her, with other children,

THE REV. EDMUND NELSON, M.A., Rector of Hilborough and Burnham Thorpe, in Norfolk, born in 1722. This gentleman married, May 11th., 1749, Catharine, only daughter of the Rev. Maurice Suckling, D.D., Prebendary of Westminster, whose wife was Mary, daughter of Sir Charles Turner, Bart., of Wareham, Norfolk, by his wife Mary, daughter of Robert Walpole, Esq., of Houghton, Norfolk, and sister of Sir Robert Walpole, K.G., first Earl of Orford, and of Horatio, Lord Walpole of Wolterton. This lady, by her direct descent on the father's side from the Careys, in Henry the Eighth's reign, brought a royal descent in three lines from Edward the

First to her warrior son. The Rev. Edmund Nelson died April 26th., 1802, having had eight children, of whom the fifth son was

HORATIO NELSON, first BARON NELSON, THE HERO OF THE NILE, also made a Viscount, born at the Parsonage House, Burnham Thorpe, September 29th., 1758, married, March 22nd., 1787, Frances, daughter of William Herbert, Esq., and widow of Josiah Nisbet, Esq., M.D., but had no children. He died in the hour of victory, October 21st., 1805, when his titles reverted, according to the limitation, to his elder and only surviving brother, namely,

THE REV. WILLIAM NELSON, D.D., Prebendary of Canterbury, second BARON and VISCOUNT NELSON, created, November 20th., 1805, VISCOUNT MERTON OF TRAFALGAR and EARL NELSON, with remainder to his own heirs male, and failing such to the heirs male of his sister Mrs. Bolton, and failing such to the heirs male of his other sister, Mrs. Matcham. He married first, November 9th., 1786, Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Henry Yonge, by whom he had a son, HORATIO VISCOUNT TRAFALGAR, born October 26th., 1788, who died unmarried January 17th., 1808, and a daughter, who succeeded to the dukedom of Bronté and the property in Sicily attached thereto, which is still held by her son, the present Viscount Bridport. He married, secondly, March 26th., 1829, Hilare, third daughter of Admiral Sir Robert Barlow, G.C.B., but died without further issue, February 28th., 1835, and was succeeded by his nephew,

THOMAS BOLTON, second Earl, who took in lieu of his patronymic the surname and arms of Nelson. He married, February 21st., 1821, Frances Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Maurice Eyre, Esq., of Landford and Brickworth, Wiltshire, who, through her great grandmother, Jane Buckland, of Standlynch, was the lineal descendant of the ancient Lords of this Manor, and had with other children,

HORATIO, third EARL NELSON, born August 7th., 1823, who married, July 28th., 1845, Mary Jane Diana, only daughter of Welbore, Earl of Normanton, by whom he had a son and heir,

HERBERT HORATIO, VISCOUNT TRAFALGAR, born July 19th., 1854.



BROUGHTON CASTLE,

NEAR BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE.—LORD SAYE AND SELE.

BROUGHTON CASTLE, three miles from Banbury, the seat of Lord Saye and Sele, is built of the substantial yellow stone of the country.

The house and grounds are completely enclosed by a remarkably fine wide moat, the only entrance being by a bridge and gateway on the south side. Built by the De Broughtons in the latter period of Edward the First's reign, the castle and estate was purchased by William of Wykeham in 1377, and passed by will to Sir Thomas Wykeham, his great-nephew and heir, whose eventual heiress, Margarette, intermarried with Lord Saye and Sele who fell at the Battle of Barnet, 1471, and of which marriage the present Lord Saye and Sele is the heir general.

Sir Thomas and Lady Wykeham lie interred in the chancel of Broughton Church.

At the eastern end of the hall, which is fifty-one feet by twenty-eight, is a beautiful groined passage leading to the stairs of the chapel and priest's room. Of the decorated early English chapel too much cannot be said in praise. It is of small dimensions, but lofty, and occupying the height of two of the other stories. In the southern wall are five small lancet arches, through which the worshippers in the southern room, above the chapel, could hear and see the officiating priest. A large aperture also exists for this purpose on the western side. The east end is almost entirely occupied by a large three-light window, with geometrical tracing. Under the window is the original altar slab, with the cavity on its north side testifying to its genuineness. It is of stone, and supported on three brackets. The floor of the chapel is paved with the original encaustic tiles of good and valuable patterns.

The Hall, though converted from the Mediæval into the Tudor style in 1554, retains its original plan and proportions. The west end, leading from it, was at the same time converted into two magnificent rooms, a dining and a drawing room, with projecting bay windows, and having internally rich renaissance fire-places with splendid ceilings. In the dining-room is a curious internal porch. These rooms are forty-two feet by twenty-three each.

At this end a noble staircase ascends to the corridor, eighty-nine feet long, and to the Council Chamber, in which, between the dissolution of the Short Parliament and the meeting of the Long Parliament, Pym, Hampden, Oliver, St. John, Lord Brook, Lord Saye and Sele, the Earls of Bedford, Warwick, and Essex, Nathaniel Fiennes, and Sir Harry Vane the younger were wont to assemble and take measures to resist the

court's arbitrary measures. Near the Council Chamber a door opens on the leads, whence is a glorious view of the sweeping moat, formed from the junction of three brooks, and of the hills surrounding the venerable castle.

Taken altogether, Broughton Castle is a most interesting building, whether we regard the earlier portions of it, or the transition alterations thereof from the castellated to the domestic period.

Seen either from the north-west or the north-east, the church, the gateway, the stables, and the castle, with its gables and chimneys, harmonize finely with the stately trees and moat with which they are surrounded.

King James the First of England and Sixth of Scotland honoured Lord Saye and Sele by a visit to Broughton Castle in September, 1604, and the sermon preached by His Majesty's Chaplain, Thomas Playgere, in Broughton Church, is in print, and speaks of the then abundant harvest.

LORD SAYE AND SELE, the twentieth in descent from Geoffrey, Lord Saye, one of the twenty-five barons who compelled King John to grant the Great Charter, succeeded as thirteenth Baron March 31st., 1847, and as a Clergyman of the Church of England became Archdeacon of Hereford.



SIOUX LAND TOWNS HALL

STOWLANGTOFT HALL,

NEAR BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK.—WILSON.

STOWLANGTOFT was formerly the residence of Sir Simonds D'Ewes, who gives the following account of its early history:—"On Thursday the 1st. of July (1624) I perused over divers of the old evidence of the manor of Stowlangtoft with much delight, having now by my study of records gotten reasonable skill and ability in the reading of those old hands and characters in which the elder deeds had been written for about five hundred years past, as well as those which have been past since. By them I easily discovered that the ancient appellation of the town had been singly Stow, and that it had been possessed by the family of Langetot from about William the First's time till the latter end of King John or the beginning of Henry the Third. Robert de Langetot, son of Richard de Langetot, died without issue male, leaving Maude de Langetot, his sole daughter and heiress, married to Sir Nicholas Petche, Knight, who had issue by her Sir John Petche, Knight, (their son and heir), Sir Reginald Petche, Knight, and Hugh Petche, about which time the manor and town began to be called Stow de Langetot, a little later Stowlangetot, and lastly, as it is called to this day, Stowlangtoft. Before I discovered the true origin of the appellation out of the same ancient evidences, the Townsends themselves, and all others, had a fond and idle tradition constantly believed and reported amongst them, that the village was called Stowlangethorne, from a lantern that stood fixed on the top of the steeple there."

Stowlangtoft was afterwards owned and inhabited by Sir Walter Rawlinson, and subsequently by Sir George Wombwell, Baronet, from whom it was purchased by the family of the present owner.

The old hall was pulled down and the present house built in the year 1859, from the designs of Mr. J. H. Hakewill the architect, Messrs. Cubitt, of Gray's Inn Road, being the builders. It is in the Italian style of architecture, and externally of white brick and stone.

The house stands upon a gentle slope to the south, with cheerful home views all round; it has a raised terrace on the south and west fronts, that on the south being two hundred and sixty feet in length, with a lower terrace laid out as an Italian garden, whence a path leads to the gardens which belonged to the old house, now some little distance off. The house is entered from the north by a portico, flanked by a lofty tower, with open campanile of Corinthian columns.

A handsome hall of large proportions opens through an arcade of three arches into a corridor, from which the principal rooms are entered.

The dining-room is a noble room nearly forty feet in length; the drawing-room nearly the same size; and the library, with windows to the south and west, a large and well-proportioned room, fitted up in wainscot, and well stocked. The billiard-room is entered from the hall.

The principal staircase is approached from the corridor, and is of oak with handsome carved newels, the walls hung with tapestry of the seventeenth century, representing rustic scenes, and a splendid boar hunt by Snyder.

The corridor leads on to the justice room, gun room, waiting room, and garden entrance, which opens into a glazed colonnade, communicating with the greenhouse. The effect of this, as seen from the dining-room, one of the windows of which opens into the colonnade, is particularly striking.

The hall contains a good collection of pictures, consisting of specimens of the following artists:—Stanfield, Turner, Crome, Cotman, Constable, Moreland, Wilkie, Holland, Wilson, Van Gowen, S. Ruysdael, Cooper, Hurlstone, etc.

The grounds were laid out by Mr. Page, of Southampton, who has skilfully united the house with the old gardens, which were at some little distance.

The church, a noble example of late decorated architecture, standing within the park upon rising ground, which is supposed to have been part of a Roman encampment, contains the old oak carved seats, and chancel stalls quite perfect, and some good painted glass in the windows.

THOMAS WILSON, Esq., of Highbury Place, married Miss Mary Remington, and by her had

JOSEPH WILSON, Esq., of Highbury Hill, Middlesex, Little Massingham, Norfolk, and Stowlangtoft, Suffolk. By his first wife, Mary Anne, eldest daughter of Robert Maitland, Esq., of Blue Stile, Greenwich, a West India Merchant, whom he married July 10th., 1792, (his second wife being Emma, eldest daughter of John Welford, Esq., of Blackheath, married to him February 19th., 1800,) he left a son and heir,

HENRY WILSON, Esq., of Stowlangtoft Hall, J.P. and D.L., High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1845, and M.P. for West Suffolk, born August 27th., 1797, married, first, July 29th., 1824, Mary Fuller, eldest daughter of Ebenezer Fuller Maitland, Esq., of Park Place, Henley-on-Thames, and secondly, May 18th., 1839, Caroline, only daughter of the Rev. Lord Henry Fitzroy, Prebendary of Westminster, and Rector of Easton, Suffolk, brother of His Grace the Duke of Grafton. By his first wife he had a large family, the eldest son being

FULLER MAITLAND WILSON, Esq., of Stowlangtoft Hall, J.P., Lieutenant-Colonel of the West Suffolk Militia, High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1873, born August 27th., 1825, who married, April 20th., 1852, Agnes Caroline, second daughter of the Right Honourable Sir R. T. Kindersley, and has several children, the eldest son being

ARTHUR MAITLAND WILSON, born June 16th., 1857.



CAPESTHORNE,

NEAR CHELFORD, CHESHIRE.—DAVENPORT.

CAPESTHORNE, the modern seat of the ancient family of Davenport, came into that family by marriage with the heiress of the Wards of Capesthorne, A.D. 1721.

The house, built about the same period, was restored and enlarged about 1837, and in 1861 the centre portion, since rebuilt very nearly on the original plan, was almost wholly destroyed by fire, together with some fine old furniture, panellings, and family portraits of interest.

Of the Davenport family, Ormerod says that its history is “of rare occurrence *even in this county*,” (*i. e.* Cheshire, described by Leland as the “seed plot of knightly families,” and the “mother and nurse of the gentility of England,”) “the descent of a family in one uninterrupted male line from the Norman Conquerors of the palatinate, possessing at the present day the feudal powers with which the local sovereigns of that palatinate invested it, and preserving in its own archives, in a series of original documents, the proofs of its ancient importance, and its unbroken descent.”

The ancient seat, described by Leland as “the first and best house of the Davenports at Davenport, a great house covered with lead on the banks of the Dane, near Congleton,” is now utterly destroyed, and on its site is built the present Davenport Hall, a modern house of moderate dimensions, which, together with what remained of the old estate, was alienated by Davies Davenport, the great grandfather of the present representative, Mr. Bromley Davenport, M.P. for North Warwickshire, and left to a daughter, who married Mr. Horton, of Catton, to whose family it still belongs.

The situation of Capesthorne is very picturesque, overlooking a chain of pools supplied from Reedsmere, a fine sheet of water above, on which is still to be seen the old Floating Island—about an acre in size, which, though now stationary, for many years formerly used to roam about the mere just as the wind, the trees growing on it acting as sails, dictated.

The Macclesfield Forest hills and “Cloud End” form an almost Scotch background, and the old thorn trees in the park are in spring an attraction to many sightseers.

The old feudal rights of this family were very important. The Grand Sergeancy of the Forests of Macclesfield, an hereditary office still held by Mr. Davenport, conferred the power of life and death over a vast area “without delay and without appeal”—and at Capesthorne is preserved a long roll, (without date but very ancient,) containing the names of the master robbers taken and beheaded with their companions in the times of Vivian, Roger, and Thomas de Davenport.

There are many pictures of value and interest, especially the Giotto, the gem of the old Bromley collection of ancient Italian masters, a beautiful landscape by Velasquez, a view of Antwerp by Minderhout, etc., etc.

The library contains many books of extreme rarity and value, and is especially rich in old Italian literature.

The contents of the deed closets are of great antiquity, and of these and the manuscripts generally, some account is given in the Report of the Historical Commission published in 1871.

The first recorded ancestor of this family is Ormus or Orme (living *temp.* William the Conqueror), whose son Richard had Marton Manor in frank marriage with Amabilia, daughter of Gilbert Venables, in 1188, from which date to the present the said manor (adjoining Capesthorpe) has never left the possession of the Davenports.



POWERSCOURT.

POWERSCOURT,

NEAR ENNISKERRY, COUNTY OF WICKLOW.—VISCOUNT POWERSCOURT.

POWERSCOURT, distant from Bray about four miles, is approached by a handsome arched gateway of granite, and an avenue of beech trees about a mile long, overlooking the valley of the River Dargle, the name of which is a corruption of the Celtic "Dah-glen," the "Valley of the Oaks," from the ancient forest, the remains of which still exist in the deer park.

The house, built of granite about 1730, presents a Grecian façade to the north or entrance front, with a central block and wings, terminated by gateways and obelisks surmounted by eagles. The south front overlooks the terraces and the view across the valley to the "Great Sugar-loaf," called in Irish "The Silver Spear," a conical mountain somewhat resembling Vesuvius in form, one thousand six hundred and fifty feet above the sea, the cone of which is of granite, piercing through the overlying strata of clay-slate.

The view from the mansion is of great beauty, embracing a panorama of the Wicklow mountains, and a richly wooded landscape, sloping down to the river.

The house stands upon the sight of the ancient castle of the O'Tooles, and the estate was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Richard Wingfield, Marshal of Ireland, created first Viscount Powerscourt, for services rendered to the Crown in subduing the lawless Septs that inhabited this district during her reign.

The house is entered in the north front by a large but low entrance hall, filled with armour and stags' heads, whence the principal staircase leads to the saloon, which is over the entrance hall, both being of the same dimensions, sixty feet by forty. The saloon, however, runs up to the roof of the house, two stories high, and is forty feet in height. The upper part of it has two galleries, supported by Ionic columns, and it is lighted from these galleries, which communicate with the bedroom floor.

Groups of statuary are placed between the columns, and the floor is of chesnut wood. In this saloon King George IV. was entertained at a banquet by the present Viscount's grandfather, on the occasion of his visit to Ireland in 1821. The chimney-piece is modern, designed by Pegrazzi of Verona, from one in the Doge's Palace at Venice; and the bronze fire-dogs, fender, etc., came from a palace there, and are attributed to John of Bologna.

There is a curious old harpsichord in this room, exhibited at South Kensington in 1872, dated 1612, and painted inside and out by Vandermeulen with subjects taken from the sieges of various towns in the wars of Louis the Fourteenth. It is also

marked as having been restored by Pascal Taskin, in 1774, and it was purchased from the Bankers Torlonia at Rome, in 1841, as having belonged to Marie Antoinette, by the present Viscount's father.

The two drawing-rooms open from the saloon, on the south front of the house, and contain pictures by Rembrandt, Titian, Tintoretto, Guercino, etc.

Below the drawing-rooms, on the ground floor, are the dining-room, morning room, and library. The dining-room contains pictures principally of the modern French and Belgian schools, by Rosa Bonheur, Corot, Achenbach, etc. In the morning room are two interesting pictures, one of Marshal Sir Richard Wingfield, first Viscount Powerscourt, and one of his uncle Sir Anthony Wingfield, K.G. This latter picture is mentioned in the Letters of the Honourable Horace Walpole (Lord Orford), Letter XXVIII. to Richard Bentley, Esq. The story told about the picture (painted by Holbein) was that the housekeeper, in showing the house at Letheringham, in Suffolk, used to say that Sir Anthony had had his thumb cut off for striking some one in the king's presence. The picture shows the thumb tucked into the girdle, and the housekeeper probably invented the story, to account for the thumb being hidden by the girdle. The story, however, is sufficient to identify the picture, which was purchased by Frederick, fourth Marquis of Londonderry, at the sale of Mr. Dawson Turner's pictures at Messrs. Christie and Manson's in 1852, and given to the present Viscount, his step-son. The other pictures in this room are also family portraits.

The terraces on the south front, commenced in 1842, were designed by Mr. Daniel Robertson, from the plan of the Villa Butera, in Sicily. The upper terrace, of granite, is about three hundred yards long, opening at the west end into the gardens, and is ornamented with marble statues and vases. Below this is a second terrace, formed in grass slopes, with a central flight of steps, and an alcove in granite, decorated with bronze vases and two cinque-cento bronze Tritons, spouting water into a basin. These two figures came from the collection of Prince Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, and were sold by him after the burning of the Palais Royal, in Paris, by the Communists in 1870. They formerly belonged to the palace of the Duke de Litta at Milan.

The surrounding grounds are planted with choice coniferous and other trees and shrubs. The deer park is a deep glen, containing the highest waterfall in the British Islands. The surrounding woods are the remains of the original self-sown oak forest which anciently covered a great portion of this part of Ireland.

The family of Wingfield, from which Lord Powerscourt descends, is described by Camden as "famous for their knighthood and ancient nobility," and stated to have been settled at Wingfield, in the county of Suffolk, before the Conquest. The senior line became extinct, but the junior derives from

SIR ROBERT WINGFIELD, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, greatly distinguished in the civil wars in Ireland, over which country he was appointed Marshal by Queen Elizabeth in 1600, which office was confirmed to him by James the First.



STEDLEY CASTLE

STUDLEY CASTLE,

NEAR STUDLEY, WARWICKSHIRE.—WALKER.

At the Conquest the parish of Studley was entirely in possession of William, son of Corbicon, whose son Peter passed it away with his daughter in marriage to Henry de Montfort. It afterwards came into possession of William Beauchamp, Lord Abergavenny, and eventually was possessed by the Knights Templars. The above-named Peter founded a Priory of regular Augustine Canons here in the reign of King Stephen, which was so amply endowed that in 1399 the monks were enabled to begin rebuilding the church constructed at their foundation. After the dissolution of this priory, the site of the monastery, with the manor of Studley, were granted to Sir Edmund Knightley, Sergeant-at-Law in the 30th. of Henry the Eighth, and it subsequently passed by marriage to John Knotsford, Sergeant-at-Arms. The remains are now occupied as a farmhouse, and several tenements, occupied by labourers on the estate, have been constructed out of the ruins of the old castle.

The present magnificent structure was erected by the late Sir Francis Lyttleton Holyoake Goodricke, about the year 1830, from whom the property was purchased by the father of the present proprietor.

The Castle, which is in the pure Norman style of architecture, is built entirely of native stone, and seated on a commanding eminence, sixteen miles south of Birmingham, fifteen east of Worcester, fourteen west of Warwick, and fifteen west of Leamington.

Placed in a finely timbered park of eight hundred acres, very extensive and charming views over Warwickshire and Worcestershire are obtained from the terraces along the south front of the Castle, from whence also the river Arrow may be seen winding its way.

The mansion comprises centre and two wings, and forms three sides of a quadrangle, the fourth being enclosed as a courtyard, by a dwarf turreted wall, entered through massive iron gates with noble entrance and porte cochère.

The entrance hall opens to a vestibule occupying the whole of the principal tower, one hundred feet high, and from this open the principal reception rooms, dining hall saloon, octagon library, small round towers, etc.

The east wing is entirely appropriated to the family apartments, and the west contains billiard room, gun room, servants' offices, etc., etc., etc.

The grand staircase, (which is of polished oak, as are all the floors,) leads to the great gallery, round the octagon tower, which opens to the visitors' rooms, and corridors from this gallery communicate with the wings of the mansion.

The principal rooms form a noble suite, and open to a broad gravel terrace, looking upon the park and ornamental waters and the beautiful lawns and pleasure grounds, which abound with luxuriant flowering shrubs, evergreens, and ornamental trees of fine growth, and are studded with forest timber.

The district is the most beautiful part of Warwickshire, on the border of Worcestershire, beautifully undulated, and thickly timbered, being part of the ancient forest of Arden.

Here are some of the choicest examples of Titian, Guido, Landseer, Rosa Bonheur, Goodall, Maclise, Heywood-Hardy, Lance, David Cox, etc.

One of the greatest ornaments of the castle is the magnificent service of Malachite and Gold, from the collection of the late Prince Demidoff, which was brought here with many other works of art from San Donato.

In old times there was a deer park attached to the Castle, but herds of Highland cattle have now taken the place of their fleeter, but not more picturesque predecessors.

THOMAS EADES WALKER, ESQ., the present proprietor of Studley Castle, elder son of Thomas Walker, Esq., of Berkswell Hall, in the same county, born in 1843, was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, and elected M.P. for East Worcestershire at the general election in 1874. He is descended from an old Warwickshire family, who have been landowners in this county for many generations, but which owes its present position to the genius and great business capability of the father of the present owner of Studley, who was for many years largely interested in the iron trade of the Midland Counties.



SH-TON HALL

ESHTON HALL,

NEAR SKIPTON, YORKSHIRE.—WILSON, BARONET.

ESHTON HALL, formerly the residence of the “De Esshetons” (Ranulf de Eston was living in 1186, and John de Eston contested the right to the Earldom and estates of Albemarle with King Edward the First,) passed into the Clifford property, and was sold by George, Earl of Cumberland, in 1597, to Robert Bindloss, Esq., of Borick, and in 1646 the hall, estate, and manor were sold by Sir Robert Bindloss, Bart., to Mathew Wilson, of Kendal, a merchant clothier, and Blackwell Hall, factor, of Coleman Street, in the City of London, ancestor of the present owner.

The house, rebuilt by his father in 1825-6, from designs by the late George Webster, of Kendal, architect, is of white freestone, on an eminence that commands a beautiful home view, is entered by a portal consisting of massive piers, faced with Doric on the basement, and surmounted by Ionic pilasters, finishing at the summit by a pierced battlement and rich scroll-work. The entrance is thirty feet by twenty feet, opening by folding doors on a handsome saloon; staircase of carved oak, thirty feet square, lighted by a dome; on the right the dining-room, thirty-six feet by twenty-four feet; beyond this the morning-room, twenty feet square; on the left the library, forty feet by twenty-four feet, with a bay-window, and communicating by folding doors with the drawing-room, thirty-four feet by twenty-four feet, with a bay-window: all these rooms are sixteen feet high. The billiard-room is behind the staircase, thirty feet by twenty feet, opening into the staircase and into the drawing-room, and by the bay-window into the flower garden. The library and drawing-room fitted up as a library, contain ten thousand volumes, especially rich in topography, collected by the late Miss Richardson-Currer, Sir Mathew Wilson's half-sister. There are portfolios of engravings, articles of *vertù* in marble, bronze, nola vases, cabinets, and china; a good collection of pictures by old masters, and family portraits.

The family of Wilson descends from

ROBERT WILSON, Esq., of Brigsteare, Haversham, Westmorland, and Alice his wife. Their son,

MATHEW WILSON, Esq., became possessed of Eshton Hall by purchase, as above stated. He died in London in 1656, and was succeeded by

JOHN WILSON, Esq., of Eshton Hall, who, by his wife Dorothy, was father of, with other younger children,

MATHEW WILSON, Esq., of Eshton Hall, married June 28th., 1699, Anne, daughter of Timothy Blackburne, Esq., of Blackburne Hall, in Swaledale, Yorkshire, and was succeeded by his son,

MATHEW WILSON, Esq., of Eshton Hall, baptized October 14th., 1706, who married Margaret, daughter of Henry Wigglesworth, Esq., of Slaidburn, and had, with other issue, his heir,

MATHEW WILSON, Esq., of Eshton Hall, Barrister-at-Law, born February 12th., 1730. He married July 7th., 1759, Frances, daughter of Richard Clive, Esq., of Styche, Salop, M.P. for Montgomeryshire, and sister of Robert Clive, first Lord Clive. By her he left a daughter, Margaret Clive Wilson, who married, first, February 3rd., 1783, the Rev. Henry Richardson, M.A., Rector of Thornton, (who assumed the surname and arms of Currer,) and died 10th. November, 1784, leaving only a daughter, she married secondly, November 20th., 1800, her cousin,

MATHEW WILSON, Esq., born August 10th., 1722, who thus became of Eshton Hall, and had issue,

SIR MATHEW WILSON, J.P. and D.L., M.P. for the Northern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, born August 29th., 1802, created a Baronet in 1874. He married, June 15th., 1826, Sophia Louisa Emerson Amcotts, only daughter and co-heiress of Sir Wharton Emerson Amcotts, Bart., of Kettlethorpe Park, Lincolnshire, by his second wife, Amelia Theresa Campbell, and has a son,

MATHEW WHARTON WILSON, born 20th. March, 1827, formerly of the 11th. Hussars, married, 13th. November, 1850, Gratiana Mary, only daughter of Admiral Richard Thomas, of Stonehouse, and has a son, Mathew Amcotts, 1st. West York Rifles, born 2nd. January, 1853, married 8th. October, 1874, Georgina Mary, eldest daughter of Richard T. Lee, Esq., of Grove Hall, Yorkshire.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAEN WOOD TOWERS,

HIGHGATE, MIDDLESEX.—BROOKE.

THIS beautiful edifice, built on the site of the Fitzroy Farm and Dufferin Lodge, (the late residence of Lord Dufferin,) has been recently erected by its present proprietor, Mr. Edward Brooke. The house is of a highly ornamented character throughout, and the interior especially is richly decorated with carving. The ante-hall is laid with black and white marble, and the chimney-pieces here and in other rooms are richly carved from designs by the architects. "The ceilings of the dining-rooms, the halls, the morning room, and library are of panelled wainscot, moulded and carved, with an elaborately-carved chimney-piece in the dining-room, also of wainscot, worked up to the ceiling. On either side of the dining-room chimney-piece are windows looking into a fernery, with fountains. The upper portion of the windows above the transome is fitted with stained glass of a geometrical pattern. The staircase windows are filled with stained glass; the large one with the armorial bearings of the Brooke family for eighteen generations; the side lights, with subjects from Tennyson's poems." In the windows of the billiard-room are representations of various out-door sports and pastimes, as hunting, cricket, archery, etc., also in stained glass.

"The morning room is lined with old Cordova leather, brought from Antwerp, which was put up in a mansion there when Antwerp was under Spanish rule: it is in a fine state of preservation. The ceiling of this room is decorated to agree with the leather, the upper portions of the windows being fitted with designs of the seasons; the frieze of the cornice having heads modelled from Scriptural subjects."

Highgate, in such near proximity to the city of London, is rich in historical associations, and especially has it been, for many generations, the retreat of literary men. Coleridge lived for some time here, at the latter part of his life, "looking down," as Carlyle says, "on London and its smoke-tumult, like a sage escaped from the inanity of life's battle, attracting towards him the thoughts of innumerable brave souls still engaged there,—heavy laden, high aspiring, and surely much-suffering men." Mac Dowell the sculptor, Dr. Southwood Smith, and Mr. David Williams, the founder of the Literary Fund, were also residents of this place. Andrew Marvell, the patriot representative of Hull, the friend and benefactor of Milton, and the first to discover and make known the genius of "Paradise Lost," had a house at Highgate. These are but a few of the *literati* of past generations who have honoured this suburban

village with their presence; while to-day it is the adopted residence of many of their successors in the world of science and letters.

Here, about the year 1630, Cromwell built for himself "Cromwell House," where, however, it is thought he paid but occasional visits. Prickett, the historian of Highgate, says that this residence of the Protector's "was evidently built and internally ornamented in accordance with the taste of its military occupant. The staircase, which is of handsome proportions, is richly decorated with oaken carved figures, supposed to be of persons in the general's army, in their costume; and the balustrade filled in with devices emblematical of warfare. On the ceiling of the drawing-room are the arms of General Ireton: this and the other ceilings of the principal apartments are enriched in conformity with the fashion of those days. The proportions of the noble rooms, as well as the brickwork in front, well deserve the notice and study of the antiquary and the architect."

The chapel of Highgate, which occupied the site of a hermit's cell, was granted by Bishop Grindal, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1565, to a new grammar school, erected and endowed the year before by Sir Roger Cholmeley, late Lord Chief Justice. This was pulled down many years ago, and the church built in another part of the village. Among the tombs was that of Coleridge, the poet and philosopher. The present church was built in 1832, at a cost of £10,000, in the parish of St. Pancras; but shortly afterwards Highgate was made a district of itself.



BIRR CASTLE,

PARSONSTOWN, KING'S COUNTY, IRELAND.—EARL OF ROSSE.

THE castle of Birr was considered to be the chief seat of the O'Carrols, chieftains of the Sept. A great battle was fought in the vicinity in 241, between Cormac, son of Conn of the Hundred Battles, and the people of Munster. The place suffered much from the ravages of the Danes in 841 and 842; and in 1154, O'Hedergool, King of Cathlingie, was killed at the church-door. On the breaking out of the war of 1641, William Parsons was made governor of Ely O'Carrol and Birr Castle, which he garrisoned with his own tenantry. The next year an engagement took place between the garrison and the Sept of the O'Carrols; and in the same year, 1642, the castle was besieged by the Irish, but was relieved by Sir Charles Coote, who threw into it a supply of ammunition and provisions. This action was deemed so important, that it procured for Sir Charles the dignity of Earl of Mountrath. But in the following year the place fell into the hands of General Preston, commander of the forces of the Confederate Catholics in Leinster, who kept possession of it till it was taken by Ireton in 1650; and a subsequent attempt by the Marquis of Clanricarde, to recover it for the King, was baffled by the approach of Colonel Axtell. At the time of the Restoration it seems that the place was of some commercial importance (*Birr town*), from the number of brass tokens then coined for the convenience of trade. In the war of 1688 the castle was besieged by Colonels Grace and Oxburgh, and surrendered in terms which were afterwards made grounds of accusation against Sir Lawrence Parsons, the governor. He was found guilty of high treason, but received a pardon after several reprieves. At this period Birr is mentioned by Sir William Petty as sending two members to Parliament. In 1689, the Roman Catholic clergymen took possession of the tithes and glebe, which they held till the battle of the Boyne. In 1690 the castle was besieged by General Sarsfield, the Duke of Berwick, and Lord Galway; but the siege was raised by Sir John Lanier for King William. A meeting of delegates from several volunteer corps was held in 1781, and again in 1782, at which strong resolutions were passed relative to the great questions which then absorbed public attention.

The late Lord Rosse, who devoted much time and thought to studies connected with astronomy, and other branches of science, had a laboratory, with machinery for polishing the largest specula for telescopes, by means of which he constructed a reflector of

twenty-seven feet focal length, the great speculum of which is three feet in diameter, and another of fifty-three feet focal length and six feet diameter, still the largest in the world. The telescopes stand on the lawn in front of Birr Castle, and are moved by machinery which also was the invention of his lordship. The smaller one has been carried by a mounting similar in principle to that of Herschel's celebrated telescope, which, however, is now being replaced by a more modern structure.

The family of Lord Rosse descends from Lawrence Parsons, Esq., Attorney-General for the Province of Munster in 1612.



UNIVERSITY HALL

ARBURY HALL,

NEAR NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.—NEWDEGATE.

THIS mansion was raised on the ruins of an ancient priory, and is indebted to the tasteful exertions of the late Sir Roger Newdegate, Bart., for such improvements as render it a most elegant specimen of the compendious Gothic style. The house is seated in the midst of a fine and extensive park, well wooded and adorned with artificial expanses of water. The approach on the north is through a long and magnificent avenue of trees, the lines of which, rich in various foliage, are broken in a manner judiciously conducive to the picturesque. The exterior of the building is entirely cased with stone, and each front presents a separate design of architectural beauty, though all are consistent in general character.

The whole range of principal apartments is finished in the most costly style, and combines a selection of the more beautiful parts of Gothic architecture, made with exquisite taste. The ceiling of the dining room is enriched with pendant ornaments, and supported with taper pillars. In niches, delicately canopied, are placed good casts from the antique; and in a recess at the farther end is inserted the top of a sarcophagus, brought by Sir Robert Newdegate from Rome, on which is sculptured the marriage of Bacchus and Ariadne. The drawing room is of moderate but pleasing proportions, and is ornamented in a style particularly chaste. Inserted in the panels of this room are five whole-length family portraits, and different armorial bearings are introduced, on small shields in the tracery work of the ceiling. The fine bay window of the saloon looks into the gardens, which are extensive and disposed with much elegance. The ceiling of this apartment is elaborately worked in imitation of King Henry the Seventh's Chapel. In the room adjoining the saloon is the well-known picture of which an engraving is given in the antiquities of Warwickshire. This curious painting commemorates the achievements of Sir John de Astley, concerning whom Dugdale thus writes:—"Of the Patshull branch of the Astley family was John de Astley, who, on the 29th. of August, 1438, maintaining a duel on horseback, within the street called Antoine, in Paris, against one Peter de Masse, a Frenchman, in the prescence of Charles the Seventh, King of France, pierc't the said Peter through the head, and had (as by the articles betwixt them conditioned) the helmit of the said Peter being so vanquish'd, to present unto his lady. And on the 30th. of January, 20 of Henry the Sixth, undertook another fight in the Smythfield, within the city of London, in the prescence of the same King Henry the Sixth, with

Sir Philip Boyle, an Arragonian Knight, who having been in France, by the King his master's command, to look out some hardy person against whom he might try his skill in feats of armes, and missing there of his desires, repaired hither. After which combate ended (being gallantly perform'd on foot, with battil-axes, speares, swords, and daggers), he was knighted by the King, with an annuity of one hundred marks during his life. Nay, so famous did he grow for his valour, that he was elected Knight of the Garter."

This family represents, through an heiress, the ancient and knightly race of the name descending from John de Newdegate, living in the third year of the reign of Edward the Third. In the male line it descends as follows:—

WILLIAM PARKER, Esq., of Salford Priors, in the county of Warwick, married Millicent Newdigate, daughter of Sir Richard Newdigate, Bart., of Arbury, in the same shire, and Harefield, Middlesex, and on the failure of the male line of the said family in the person of Sir Roger Newdigate, LL.D., the fifth Baronet, M.P. for Middlesex, 1742, and for the University of Oxford from 1750 for many following years, Founder of the Prize for the popular "Newdigate" Poem, who died without issue November 23rd., 1806, the estates came to his descendants. Their third son,

CHARLES PARKER, Esq., of Arbury and Harefield, married Jane, daughter of Sir John Anstruther, Bart., and died April 24th., 1795, leaving, with other issue, an eldest son,

CHARLES NEWDIGATE PARKER, Esq., of Harefield, who assumed by Royal License the surname and arms of Newdegate only. He married, April 15th., 1815, Maria, daughter of Ayscoghe Boucherett, Esq., of Willingham House and Stallingborough, Lincolnshire, and dying April 23rd., 1833, left an only son and successor,

CHARLES NEWDIGATE NEWDEGATE, of Arbury and Harefield, (the former of which estates he came into possession of on the death of his uncle, Francis Newdigate, Esq., of Kirk Hallam, Derbyshire, 1835,) J.P., D.L., D.C.L., M.P. for Warwickshire for many years, born July 14th., 1816.



WROXTON ABBEY

WROXTON ABBEY,

NEAR BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE.—NORTH.

THIS place formerly belonged to canons regular of St. Augustine, but the original buildings having been destroyed by fire, the present extensive and very noble mansion was erected on its site, about the commencement of the seventeenth century. It has since, at different times, received various additions and improvements, in all of which the ancient baronial character of the edifice has been scrupulously preserved. The same may be said of the gardens and pleasure-grounds, whose monastic features will still be viewed with particular interest, as here no innovating hand has ever been allowed to intrude.

The building is of an ornamental and interesting character, though it is not completed according to the original design, as an intended wing on the south side was commenced. The Lord Keeper made some additions, and a library has lately been erected after a plan by Mr. Smirke.

The chapel is a room beautified by the first Earl of Guilford.

The estate came into the possession of the family of North, by the marriage of Francis, Lord Keeper Guilford, with Lady Frances Pope, sister to the fourth and last Earl of Downe.

The mansion is enriched by many ancient portraits of the families of Pope and North. Among the former is an original of Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, and uncle of the first Earl of Downe. Of the latter there is a complete series of Lords North, from Edward, the first Lord, created in the reign of Philip and Mary, to the present time.

The church of Wroxton contains many monuments which demand notice. On a black marble gravestone is an inscription to "Elizabeth, late wife of Francis Lord Guilford, and one of the daughters of the Right Honourable Fulke Lord Brooke." She died in 1699. Another gravestone of a similar description, commemorates Francis Lord Guilford himself, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, born October 22nd., 1637, died September 5th., 1685. On the north side of the chancel is a magnificent tomb, with the recumbent effigies of William Pope, first Earl of Downe, and his lady. On the same side of the chancel is a marble tablet affixed to the wall, surmounted with angels, to the memory of the Lady of the Lord Keeper Guilford. On the south wall of the chancel is a monument to Francis, Earl of Guilford, and his three wives. Immediately adjoining is an elegant monument, lately erected to the memory of the

Prime Minister, Lord North, who had succeeded to the Earldom of Guilford a short time prior to his death. In a niche to the right of the communion rails is a brass plate, formerly attached to a gravestone, with this inscription: "Here lyeth under this stone buried, Margaret Bostarde, widowe, sometime the wyf of William Pope, of Dedington, in the county of Oxford, Gent., and afterwards married to John Bostarde, of Atterbury; which William and Margaret were father and mother to Sir Thomas Pope, Knight, and John Pope, Esq." She died in 1557. The church likewise contains a monument of one of the family of Sacheverell.

The family of North descends in the male line from

WILLIAM DOYLE, Esq., of Clonmoney, in the county of Carlow, who married Jane, daughter of Howard Egan, Esq., and left a son,

CHARLES DOYLE, Esq., of Bramblestown, in the county of Kilkenny. He married Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Nicholas Milley, and left at his decease, in 1769, with several other children, an eldest son,

WILLIAM DOYLE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, King's Counsel, and Master in Chancery in Ireland. This gentleman married twice, and by his second wife, Cecilia, daughter of General Silvani, of the Austrian Service, left, with other issue, two sons, of whom the elder,

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR CHARLES WILLIAM DOYLE, K.C.B., K.C., K.C.S., G.C.H., who married, first in 1803, Sophia Cramer, daughter of Sir John Coghill, Baronet, by whom he had three sons and a daughter. The second son,

COLONEL JOHN SIDNEY DOYLE, M.P. for Oxfordshire in 1852, 1857, 1865, etc., J.P. and D.L. for Oxfordshire, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Oxfordshire Rifle Volunteers, previously Lieutenant-Colonel of the Irish Fusiliers, born 1804, married, in 1835, Susan, Baroness North, in her own right, daughter and co-heiress of George Augustus, third Earl of Guilford, and ninth Baron North. He assumed in 1838 the surname of North in lieu of his patronymic. His eldest son,

WILLIAM HENRY JOHN NORTH, of Kirtling, in Cambridgeshire, Lieutenant in the First Life Guards, and Captain in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry, born October 5th., 1836, married, January 12th., 1858, Frederica, daughter of Richard Howe Cockerell, Esq., Commander R.N., and had, with several other children,

WILLIAM FREDERICK JOHN NORTH, born October 13th., 1860.



WINDSOR CASTLE

COUGHTON COURT,

NEAR ALCESTER, WARWICKSHIRE.—THROCKMORTON, BARONET.

COUGHTON is situated between Icknield Street and the river Arrow, about two miles from Alcester, in a finely wooded country, diversified by hills.

In the time of the Conqueror it was in the possession of Turchill de Warwick.

It was afterwards held by a family who assumed their surname from hence. Simon de Cocton, or Coughton, left two daughters, one of whom, Joan, was married to William de Spineto, whereby this lordship came, by partition, to the Spiney family. Guy de la Spine left issue two daughters, one of whom, Alianore, married John, the son of Thomas Throckmorton, Esq., by which marriage, this lordship of Coughton, coming to the line of Throckmorton, hath continued therein to this day. This John died in 1455.

The original seat of this family was at Throckmorton, in the parish of Fladbury, in Worcestershire, which is still in their possession.

Some part of the house at Coughton was built when held by the Spineys. It was a quadrangle built round a court, and surrounded by a moat. The tower was erected by Sir George Throckmorton, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The entrance formerly was over a bridge, which crossed the moat, and through the gateway of the tower into the quadrangle.

Considerable alterations were made in the building, by Sir Francis Throckmorton, in the time of Charles the Second. It had been previously plundered by the Parliament forces, and the proprietor, Sir Robert, the first Baronet, was ejected, and resided at Worcester.

About the year 1780, Sir Robert Throckmorton took down one side of the quadrangle, filled up the moat, enclosed the gateway, fitting it up as a hall, and made several alterations in the building. In this hall are painted on the windows the arms of the Throckmortons, impaling those of several families connected with them.

The Baronetcy in this ancient family dates from the year 1642, and has so continued to the ninth Baronet, namely,

SIR NICHOLAS WILLIAM THROCKMORTON, of Coughton Court, born April the 26th., 1838.



EUSTON HALL.

EUSTON HALL,

NEAR FAKENHAM, SUFFOLK.—DUKE OF GRAFTON.

EUSTON HALL is a large commodious mansion built of red brick, and destitute of superfluous decorations either within or without.

The house is surrounded by trees of uncommon growth, and of healthy and luxuriant appearance; near it glides the river Ouse, over which is thrown a neat and substantial wooden bridge. The scenery about this mansion combines the most delightful assemblage of rural objects, and is justly celebrated by the author of the "Farmer's Boy:"—

"Where noble Grafton spreads his rich domains,
Round Euston's water'd vale and sloping plains;
Where woods and groves in solemn grandeur rise."

The estate of Euston is of very considerable extent, its circumference being between thirty and forty miles, and embracing a great number of villages and hamlets.

On an elevated situation in the park stands the Temple. This elegant structure, designed for a banqueting house, was built by the celebrated Kent, under the auspices of the late Duke of Grafton, who laid the first stone himself in 1746. It is in the Grecian style of architecture, and consists of an upper and lower apartment, forming a pleasing object from many points of view in the neighbourhood of Euston, and commanding an extensive prospect.

Fakenham Wood, the scene of the well-known tale of the "Fakenham Ghost," near Euston Hall, is perhaps the largest in the county, and covers three hundred and fourteen acres.

The ducal family of Grafton descends from

HENRY FITZROY, second son of His Majesty King Charles the Second, by Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland, who was followed in succession by

CHARLES FITZROY, second Duke,

AUGUSTUS HENRY FITZROY, third Duke,

GEORGE HENRY FITZROY, fourth Duke,

HENRY FITZROY, fifth Duke,

WILLIAM HENRY FITZROY, sixth Duke, born August 4th., 1819, married, February 10th., 1858, to the Honourable Mary Louise Anne Baring, daughter of Francis Baring, third Lord Ashburton.



SEZINCOT,

NEAR MORTON-IN-THE-MARSH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—RUSHOUT, BARONET.

THIS elegant mansion is situated about two miles and a half from the town of Morton, about seven from Camden, and nineteen miles north-east from the city of Gloucester. It was entirely erected by Sir Charles Cockerell, Baronet, in the style of the splendid palaces of the East. The grounds are varied and beautiful, and the whole are laid out with very great taste and judgment; a part is called the Thornery. These have been embellished with a variety of ornamental buildings erected in the most picturesque situations. The Wellington Pillar, the Temple, the Bridge, and Fountain are from designs by Thomas Daniell, Esq., R.A.

JOHN COCKERELL, Esq., of Bishop's Hall, near Taunton, Somersetshire, was father of

SIR CHARLES COCKERELL, created a Baronet, September 25th., 1809, for his eminent services as a civil servant in India from 1776 to 1800. He was subsequently a Member of Parliament for more than thirty years. He married, first, March 11th., 1789, Maria Tryphena, daughter of Sir Charles William Blunt, Bart., by whom he had no issue; and secondly, February 13th., 1808, the Honourable Harriet Rushout, daughter of John, first Lord Northwick, and had

SIR CHARLES COCKERELL, born June 11th., 1809, who took, by royal license, the surname and arms of Rushout, the latter quarterly with his own. He married, August 5th., 1834, the Honourable Cecilia Olivia Geraldine Foley, daughter of Thomas, third Lord Foley, and had, with other children,

SIR CHARLES FITZGERALD RUSHOUT, Captain in the Royal Horse Guards, born July 13th., 1840. He married, July 15th., 1865, Mary Alice Wentworth Pennant, only child of David Pennant, Esq., and had, with other issue, a son and heir,

CHARLES HAMILTON RUSHOUT, born June 21st., 1868.

CECILIA BLANCHE, born 2nd. October, 1870.

GEORGINA MARY, born 3rd. September, 1872.



KIMBOLTON CASTLE

KIMBOLTON CASTLE,

KIMBOLTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—DUKE OF MANCHESTER.

“THE east side of the county,” says Cudd, “is adorned with the castle of Kinnibantum, now Kimbolton, anciently the seat of the Mandevilles, afterwards of the Bohuns and Staffords, and now of the Wingfields.” Sir Richard Wingfield, K.G., twelfth son of Sir John Wingfield, of Letheringham, in Suffolk, Knight, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, married, first, Katharine, daughter of Richard, Earl Rivers, and widow of Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, after whose attainder he obtained a grant of Kimbolton Castle and Lordship from Henry the Eighth, with whom he was highly in favour. He dying whilst Ambassador in Spain, was buried at Toledo, and his son, Sir James, sold Kimbolton to Sir Henry Montagu, afterwards first Earl of Manchester, whose lineal descendant, the present Duke of Manchester, is now owner.

Kimbolton Castle, the seat of the Earls and Dukes of Manchester, is of unknown but very remote origin. “The Castle,” says Leland, “is double diked, and the building of it metely strong: it longed to the Mandevilles, Erles of Essex. Sir Richard Wingfield built new fair lodgyns and galleries upon the old foundation of the castle. There is a plotte now clene desolated not a mile by west from Kimbolton, called Castle Hill, where appear ditches and tokens of old buildings.” This Castle was the jointure and became the retirement of Queen Catharine after her divorce from Henry the Eighth. Henry, first Earl of Manchester, expended large sums in making it a comfortable residence; and Robert, his grandson, the third Earl, made further and very considerable alterations and many additions.

THOMAS MONTAGU, Gentleman, who lies buried at Hemington, in Northamptonshire, was father of

SIR EDWARD MONTAGU, the immediate ancestor of the Earls and Dukes of Manchester. He was born in Brigstock, in that county. In 1547, he was one of the commissioners of claim at the young king’s coronation. On the accession of Queen Mary, he was dismissed from his office of Judge, and imprisoned in the Tower, for his concern in the settlement of the crown upon Lady Jane Grey. He died in February, 1556-7, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

SIR EDWARD MONTAGU, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1567, and died in January, 1601. His successor was his third surviving son,

SIR HENRY MONTAGU, the purchaser of Kimbolton, who, like his grandfather, was

bred to the law in the Middle Temple, and became one of its chief luminaries. After various promotions, he was advanced to the dignity of Lord High Treasurer by King James the First, in December, 1620. About a fortnight afterwards he was created a Baron, by the title of Lord Montagu of Kimbolton and Viscount Mandeville. In February, 1626, he was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Manchester. He died in November, 1642. His eldest son,

EDWARD MONTAGU, succeeded to the title and estates. This was the celebrated Parliamentary General, who was afterwards Chamberlain to King Charles the Second. His eldest son, by the second of his five wives, by whom alone he had issue,

ROBERT MONTAGU, succeeded him. He had been one of the six Lords, members of the House of Commons, deputed to wait on Prince Charles at the Hague, and invite him to return to the government of the kingdom. He died at Montpelier, in France, in May, 1683, but was brought to England, and interred near his father at Kimbolton. His eldest surviving son,

CHARLES MONTAGU, fourth Earl, and first Duke of Manchester, "had the advantages of education, both at the University of Cambridge and abroad; and being early distinguished for a manly behaviour and polite address, was appointed carver to the Queen at the coronation of King James the Second. Not approving, however, of the measures of that reign, he retired from court; and at the Revolution, secured Huntingdonshire for the Prince of Orange, by raising a body of horse, whilst the Prince was landing. He assisted at the coronation of King William; and in 1690 accompanied him to Ireland, where he was present at the battle of the Boyne, and at the siege of Limerick. In 1696 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary to the Republic of Venice, but had no further employment during the reign of Queen Anne. On the accession of George the First he was made one of the Gentlemen of His Majesty's Bedchamber, and finally, in consideration of his great services, created first Duke of Manchester in April, 1719. He died in January, 1721-2, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

WILLIAM MONTAGU, second Duke, born in France in 1700, during his father's embassy. He bore the Golden Spurs for the Earl of Essex at the coronation of George the Second, and in 1737 was constituted Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. He died (*sine prole*) at Bath, October, 1739, and was succeeded by his brother,

ROBERT MONTAGU, third Duke, who was Vice-Chamberlain both to Queen Caroline and the ruling Sovereign. He died in May, 1762, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

GEORGE MONTAGU, fourth Duke, on whose decease, in September, 1788, his eldest son,

WILLIAM MONTAGU, fifth Duke, succeeded to the family honours and possessions. About the commencement of the present century, he was appointed Governor of Jamaica. His son and successor was

GEORGE MONTAGU, sixth Duke, commander R.N., father of

WILLIAM DROGO MONTAGU, seventh Duke, who married, July 22nd., 1852, the Countess Louise Fredericke Auguste, daughter of Graf von Alton, and had, with other children, an eldest son,

GEORGE VICTOR DROGO MONTAGU, born June 17th., 1853.



WESTONBIRT HOUSE.

WESTONBIRT HOUSE,

NEAR TETBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—HOLFORD.

ELNOD held Weston, in Langtrew Hundred, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor.

Earl Hugh held it in the reign of King William.

Hugh le Despencer the younger was seized of the manor of Westonbirt in the fifth year of Edward the Second; and Thomas Lord Berkeley held it in the thirty-fifth year of Edward the Third.

Edward, Duke of Somerset, was seized of this manor, and after his attainder it was granted to James Basset, in the fourth year of Queen Mary; and afterwards, in the seventh year of Queen Elizabeth, to Arthur Basset.

Mr. Nicholas Dymery was lord of it in the year 1608.

The manor afterwards came to the Crewes, who were a branch of the Crewes of Cheshire. The heiress of the Crewes was married to Sir Richard Holford, Master in Chancery, who was also a branch of the Cheshire family of that name, and it thence came into possession of his descendant and representative, Robert Stayner Holford, Esq., by whom the present mansion was erected, from the designs, and under the supervision of the late Lewis Vullian, Esq., Architect, on the site of a smaller house built by his predecessor, in lieu of the old Manor House, which dated from about the time of James the First.

The lineage of the present family deduces from

SIR RICHARD HOLFORD, Knight, Master in Chancery, who married, first, the heiress of the family of Crewe, of Westonbirt, and with her acquired the estate; and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Vice Admiral Sir Richard Stayner. By his second wife he had

ROBERT HOLFORD, Esq., of Westonbirt, also a Master in Chancery, who married Sarah, daughter of Sir Peter Vandeput, of the family of the extinct Baronets of that name, and had a son and heir,

PETER HOLFORD, Esq., of Westonbirt. He too was a master in Chancery and was father of, with other children,

GEORGE PETER HOLFORD, Esq., of Westonbirt, who left at his decease, April 29th., 1839, a son and successor,

ROBERT STAYNER HOLFORD, Esq., of Westonbirt, J.P., D.L., High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, 1843, and M.P for East Gloucestershire from 1854 to 1872, born March 16th., 1808. He married, August 5th., 1854, Mary Anne, daughter of General James Lindsay, of Balcarres, in the county of Fife, and is father of

GEORGE LINDSAY HOLFORD, Esq., born June 2nd., 1860.



WOLSELEY HALL.

WOLSELEY HALL,

NEAR RUGELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.—WOLSELEY, BARONET.

WOLSELEY HALL is situated in a valley close to the high road, formerly the old coach road between London and Liverpool, the inn at Wolseley Bridge being one of the principal halting places for change of horses. It is about two miles from Rugeley, and seven from Stafford. The house was considerably rebuilt by Sir Charles, the seventh Baronet.

The most prominent feature of the interior is a beautiful specimen of oak carving, consisting of a magnificent staircase, together with the wainscotted drawing-room, the workmanship of an eminent artist of the name of Pierce, supposed to be a pupil of Grinley Gibbons, in the reign of Charles the Second.

The River Trent, running in the north-west part of the county, takes here a winding course, and passes through Wolseley Bridge, near one of the entrance lodges at the foot of the hanging woods in the park.

Among the pictures are the following:—An interior of an Inn, by Teniers; St. Agnes, by Carlo Dolce; St. John, by Murillo; two heads by Albert Durer; several landscapes by Ostard; a cattle piece by Berghem; and several family portraits, the best being that of Lady Wolseley, (*née* Chambers,) wife of the Sixth Baronet, by Cotes.

The family of Wolseley have resided here, and under the same name, for more than seven centuries.

From Edric, who lived at Wolseley in the time of William Rufus, descended Richard de Wolseley, who, in the twenty-fifth year of Edward the First, married Sybilla, daughter of Roger de Aston, with whom he had lands in Bishton, an adjoining lordship, which remain with the family to this day.

In the reign of Edward the Fourth, Ralph Wolseley was one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and had permission, under the Great Seal, to enclose a park, and to stock it by means of deer leaps, with deer from out of Cannock Chase, which it adjoins. The leaps exist to the present day, and the park still contains a herd of deer. The deed is still in preservation amongst several other even older ones in the muniment chest of the family.

From him descended Robert Wolseley, who was created a Baronet by King Charles the First. His son, Sir Charles Wolseley, represented the counties of Stafford and Oxford in Parliament during the Protectorate, and was afterwards called

up to Oliver Cromwell's Upper House. He was in great favour with the Protector, and was one of his "Seven Chums."

There are several monuments and inscriptions in the ancient church at Colwich of the Wolseley family.

The above-named

RALPH WOLSELEY, one of the Barons of the Exchequer in the reign of Edward the First, left a son,

JOHN DE WOLSELEY, father of

RALPH WOLSELEY, whose son and successor,

JOHN WOLSELEY, Esq., living in 1614, had, with other issue, a son,

SIR ROBERT WOLSELEY, created a Baronet November 28th., 1628. The eighth inheritor of the title after him, in direct descent, was

SIR CHARLES WOLSELEY, BARONET, born in 1813, who married, in 1834, Mary Anne, eldest daughter of Nicholas Selby, Esq., of Acton House, Middlesex, and was father of

SIR CHARLES MICHAEL WOLSELEY, ninth Baronet, born in 1846.



DARTREY,

COUNTY OF MONAGHAN, IRELAND.—EARL OF DARTREY.

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DARTREY, the seat of the Earl of Dartrey, is situated in the County of Monaghan.

The present house was rebuilt on the site of the old mansion in the year 1846, and commands an extensive view over a large sheet of water, forming one of a wide-spreading chain of lakes.

The sloping lawn between the house and lake is beautifully laid out in terraced gardens, the brilliancy of which, contrasting with the sombre tints of the fine trees on either side, gives a peculiar richness to the view.

An important feature in the grounds is formed by a wooded island, nearly two miles in circumference, in the centre of which, approached by a magnificent avenue of beech trees, stands a building containing a fine marble monument, executed by Wilton in 1770, in memory of Lady Anne Dawson.

The approaches to the house, running along the shores of the lakes, form a very beautiful drive several miles in extent.

The family of Lord Dartrey came originally from Yorkshire, removing to Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

THOMAS DAWSON, of Armagh, was father of

JOHN DAWSON, Esq., whose son,

WALTER DAWSON, Esq., died in 1704, leaving two sons, the elder of whom,

WALTER DAWSON, Esq., married Frances, daughter of Richard Dawson, Esq., an officer in Cromwell's army, with whom he obtained the estate of Dawson's Grove, in the County of Monaghan. He was succeeded at his decease by his only surviving son,

RICHARD DAWSON, Esq., of Dawson's Grove, an eminent Banker and Alderman of the City of Dublin, and M.P. for the County of Monaghan. This gentleman married, in 1723, Elizabeth, daughter of the Most Rev. John Vesey, D.D., Archbishop of Tuam, by whom he left, dying in 1766,

THOMAS DAWSON, Esq., who was elevated to the peerage of Ireland May 28th., 1770, as BARON DARTREY, and advanced to the dignity of VISCOUNT CREMORNE, June 9th., 1785. He married, first, the Lady Anne Fermor, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Pomfret, by whom, who died in 1769, he had a son and daughter, both of

whom died in youth. His lordship married, secondly, May 8th., 1770, Philadelphia Hannah, only daughter of Thomas Freame, Esq., of Philadelphia, by whom he had another only son and daughter, who also died young. He was further created, March 7th., 1797, **BARON CREMORNE** with remainder to his nephew, Richard Dawson, Esq., and his heirs male. At his death, March 1st., 1813, the Viscounty of Cremorne expired, but the Barony of the same devolved on his great-nephew,

RICHARD THOMAS DAWSON, second Baron Cremorne, born 1788, who married, March 10th., 1815, Anne Elizabeth Emily, third daughter of John Whaley, Esq., of Whaley Abbey, in the county of Wicklow, and left at his decease, in 1827,

RICHARD DAWSON, third Baron Cremorne, of Dartrey, K.P., formerly a Lord in Waiting on the Queen, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Monaghan, born September 7th., 1817, created **BARON DARTREY**, September 20th., 1847, and **EARL OF DARTREY**, July 12th., 1866. He married, July 12th., 1841, Augusta, daughter of Edward Stanley, Esq. and Lady Mary Stanley, daughter of the Earl of Lauderdale, and had with other children,

VESEY DAWSON, **LORD CREMORNE**, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Coldstream Guards and M.P. for the County of Monaghan, born April 22nd., 1842.



MEREVALE HALL

MEREVALE HALL,

NEAR ATHERSTONE, WARWICKSHIRE.—DUGDALE.

MEREVALE HALL, near Atherstone, stands on the borders of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, about a mile distant from the town. It is finely situated on the edge of a wooded eminence.

The entrance is to the west, and on the south and east is a beautiful suite of spacious apartments with high Elizabethan and bay windows, opening on a terraced garden in the Italian style, facing the park. At the north-east corner of the mansion is a lofty tower, which is seen to great advantage from all the surrounding neighbourhood. The views from it are extremely fine, and embrace a vast extent of country. In clear weather places and objects can be seen forty miles off.

The park, beautifully undulated with hill and dale, is adorned with some of the finest oaks in the kingdom, many of which reach to the height of one hundred feet and upwards, and are evidently relics of the ancient Forest of Arden, which extended all over North Warwickshire. It is also well stocked with deer, and has a noble lake.

The present house was built in the year 1840, by the celebrated architect Blore, on the site of a former mansion of brick. The style is florid Elizabethan, and the south-east front is justly considered one of the architect's masterpieces. The interior is very handsomely decorated, and the rooms lofty and well arranged. There is a small but well-selected collection of pictures by the old masters, among which is one of the finest Cuyps in England. There is also a large library, comprising many valuable works, and among them the entire library of the antiquary Sir William Dugdale, from whom the owners of the property have descended through an heiress.

To the north of the house, at about the distance of half a mile, in the grounds, stands the parish church, which is very ancient and curious. It was formerly the pilgrim's chapel, belonging to the monastery. It contains some fine old stained-glass windows, among other good specimens being a very fine 14th. century east window, which has been lately restored. There are also here some monumental figures of the Ferrers family, the founders of the abbey.

The only remains of the monastic buildings are the walls of the refectory and a part of the south wall of the conventual church, the foundations of which have been lately excavated. The church was found to have been two hundred and twenty feet in length.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries the abbey passed into the family of Devereux. It next went into that of Stratford, with which it continued until it was conveyed in marriage by an heiress to the Dugdales of Blythe Hall.

A monastery of the Cistercian Order was founded at Merevale by Robert, Earl Ferrers, in the thirteenth year of the reign of King Stephen. This monastery was largely endowed by the founder, and was favoured by many benefactions in after periods. At the Dissolution the revenues were stated at £254 ls. 8d. per annum. The abbot and monks received pensions during life. Considerable fragments of the building still linger, as above stated, in a progressive and picturesque state of decay.

This ancient family is now represented as follows:—

SIR WILLIAM DUGDALE, KNIGHT, the celebrated antiquary and genealogist, author of the well-known Dugdale's "Monasticon," was father of

SIR JOHN DUGDALE, whose son,

WILLIAM DUGDALE, Esq., of Blythe Hall, left a daughter and co-heiress, Jane Dugdale, married to

RICHARD GEAST, Esq., of Handsworth, and their elder son and heir,

RICHARD GEAST, Esq., Barrister-at-law, by his marriage, in 1767, with Penelope Bate, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Francis Stratford, Esq., of Merevale, (—he assumed, in 1799, the additional surname and arms of Dugdale—) had, with three daughters, a son,

DUGDALE STRATFORD DUGDALE, Esq., of Merevale, born in 1773, M.P. for Warwickshire from 1802 to 1830, who married the Honourable Charlotte Curzon, daughter of Assheton Curzon, first Viscount Curzon, and had by her an only son,

WILLIAM STRATFORD DUGDALE, Esq., of Merevale and Blythe Hall, J.P. and D.L., and some time M.P. for North Warwickshire, who married Harriet Ella, daughter of Edward Berkeley Portman, Esq., of Bryanston, in the county of Dorset, and sister of Lord Portman, and had several children, the eldest son being

WILLIAM STRATFORD DUGDALE, Esq., who married Alice, daughter of Sir Charles Trevelyan, Baronet, and has a son.

The paternal descent of the present family is from

JOHN GESTE, of Handsworth, a holder of copyhold lands there, 12th. Henry VII, grandfather of

EDMUND GEAST, Bishop of Salisbury, who was followed by

RICHARD GEAST, Esq., father of

NICHOLAS GEAST, Esq., of Handsworth, who by his wife Phœbe, daughter of — Downing, was father of the above-named

RICHARD GEAST, Esq., of Handsworth, progenitor, as above shown, of the existing owner of Merevale.



PESTWOOD LODGE

BESTWOOD LODGE,

NEAR NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—DUKE OF ST. ALBANS.

FROM authentic information there seems no doubt that Bestwood was once a royal residence, and much frequented for hunting purposes by royalty, for King Edward the Third, by his letters patent, dated at his Park of Beskwood, 1st. September, 37th. Ed. III., (1364,) pardoned and released certain rents issuing out of "Lindley Hay and Bullwell Rise, to the Priory of Newstede." And in the inquisition taken at St. John's House, Nottingham, the fourth of the nones of July, in 35th. Henry III., (1251,) before Geoffrey Langley, Justice of the Forest, it is called a "Hay or Park of our Lord the King, wherein no man commons." And earlier still, King Henry the First granted to the Priory of Lenton to have "two carts to fetch deal wood and heath out of Besewood." King Henry the Second also, about the year 1160, granted the Convent to have every day "two carrs or three carretts to bring them dead wood or heath, as much as they should need for their own use."

In 1329 the wood of Beskwood was granted by Edward the Third to Richard de Shelley for his life. The same monarch, on the 22nd. of February, 1335, also granted to Richard de Shelley the dry zuches, which in English were then called stovenes or stubbes, within his Hay of Bestwood.

Thoroton, who wrote in the year 1677, says, "Bestwood hath a very fair Lodge in it, and in respect to the pleasant situation of the place, and conveniency of hunting and pleasure, the Park and Lodge have for these many years been the desire and achievement of great men. Three Earls of Rutland had it, Roger, Francis, and George. Before that, Thomas Markham, a great courtier and servant to Queen Elizabeth, had it; and before him, little Sir John Byron, a great favourite of King Henry the Eighth's. It is now on lease to William, Lord Willoughby of Parham. Before the troubles it was well stored with red deer, but now it is parcelled into little closes on one side, and much of it hath been plowed, so that there is scarce either wood or venison, which is also likely to be the fate of the whole Forest of Shirewood."

Charles the Second, by Royal Letters Patent, about 1683, granted the Park of Bestwood to Henry Beauclerc, or Beauclerk, created Duke of St. Albans, Registrar of the High Court of Chancery, and Master Falconer of England, with remainder to his heirs male.

The ancestor of the family of the Duke of St. Albans was

CHARLES BEAUCLERK, son of His Majesty King Charles the Second by Eleanor Gwynn, born May 8th., 1670, who married Diana, heiress of Aubrey de Vere, last Earl of Oxford, and was created BARON OF HEDINGTON and EARL OF BURFORD, December 27th., 1676, and further elevated in the peerage, January 10th., 1683-4, as DUKE OF ST. ALBANS. His son,

CHARLES BEAUCLERK, second Duke, K.G. and K.B., married, December 13th., 1722, Lucy, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Werden, Baronet. His Grace was followed, at his decease, July 27th., 1751, by

GEORGE BEAUCLERK, third Duke, who married Jane, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Walter Roberts, Baronet, of Glassenbury, Kent, but died without issue February 1st., 1786, when the honours reverted to his kinsman, the grandson of the first Duke,

GEORGE BEAUCLERK, Esq., who succeeded as fourth Duke, but dying unmarried in 1787, the title next went to his cousin, grandson, through another son, of the first Duke, namely,

AUBREY, second Baron Vere of Hanworth, who succeeded as fifth Duke. He married, in 1763, Lady Catherine Ponsonby, daughter of William Earl of Bessborough, by whom he had a successor,

AUBREY BEAUCLERK, sixth Duke, born August 21st., 1765. His Grace married, first, Miss Moses, by whom he had a daughter, Mary, married to George William, eighth Earl of Coventry, and secondly, Louisa, Countess of Dysart, by whom he left an only son, his successor, in 1815,

AUBREY BEAUCLERK, seventh Duke, who died February 19th., 1816, the same day as his mother, when the honours reverted to his uncle,

WILLIAM BEAUCLERK, eighth Duke, married, first, in 1791, Charlotte, daughter of the Rev. Robert Carter Thelwall, and heiress of Redbourne Hall, which lady died without issue in 1797, and secondly, in 1799, Mary Janetta, only daughter and heiress of John Nelthorpe, Esq., of Little Grimsby Hall, Lincolnshire, and by her left a large family, of whom the eldest son,

WILLIAM AUBREY DE VERE BEAUCLERK, ninth Duke, born March 1st., 1801, married, first, Harriet, daughter of Matthew Mellon, Esq., and widow of Thomas Coutts, Esq. She died without children, August 6th., 1837. The Duke married, secondly, May 29th., 1839, Elizabeth Catherine, youngest daughter of General Joseph Gubbins, of Kilrush, in the county of Limerick, and had

WILLIAM AMELIUS AUBREY DE VERE BEAUCLERK, tenth Duke, who married, June 20th., 1867, Sybil Mary, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-General the Honourable Charles Grey, and secondly, January 3rd., 1874, Grace, daughter of Bernal Osborne, Esq., of Newtown Annes. His heir is

CHARLES VICTOR ALBERT AUBREY DE VERE BEAUCLERK, born March 26th., 1870.



ROSSMORE PARK.

ROSSMORE PARK,

NEAR MONAGHAN, COUNTY OF MONAGHAN, IRELAND.—LORD ROSSMORE.

THIS picturesque building stands on an eminence in the middle of a park of considerable extent, abounding in natural beauties and extensive views.

The inside of the structure is in keeping with its outside appearance. The principal reception rooms and hall contain many pictures of interest and value.

The castle, which was greatly enlarged and beautified by the present peer's father, came into the possession of the Westenras by the marriage of one of their ancestors, Henry Westenra, Esq., M.P., Seneschal of the King's Manors in Ireland, with Miss Harriet Murray, daughter of Colonel J. Murray and Mary Lady Blayney, only child and heiress of Sir Alexander Cairns.

The genealogy of this family, originally from Holland, is as follows:—

JACOB AARON VAN WASSENAER, a noble, married Lady Amelia Bentinck. Of the same family was

WARNER WESTENRA, who settled in Ireland in the reign of Charles the Second, and was made a free denizen of that kingdom by Act of Parliament in 1662. He married Elizabeth Wybrantz, and had a successor,

HENRY WESTENRA, Esq., who married in 1700, Eleanor, second daughter of Sir Joshua Allen, Knight, and sister of John Allen, first Viscount Allen, by whom he had, with other children, an eldest son,

WARNER WESTENRA, Esq., M.P. for Maryborough in 1728. He married, in 1738, Lady Hester Lambert, second daughter of Richard Lambert, fourth Earl of Cavan, and had with other issue,

HENRY WESTENRA, Esq., married to Harriet, one of the sisters of Elizabeth Murray, daughter of John Murray, Esq., (co-heiress of her mother, Mary, Dowager Lady Blayney, sole heiress of Sir Alexander Cairns, Baronet,) who had married General Robert Cunningham, raised to the peerage of Ireland, October 19th., 1796, as BARON ROSSMORE, of Rossmore Park, the patent of creation containing a reversionary clause, conferring the Barony, at his Lordship's decease, on the heirs male, at the time being, of two of her Ladyship's sisters successively, and the only son of the elder of the other sisters, Mrs. Jones, wife of the Right Honourable Theophilus Jones,

having predeceased him, the Barony devolved on the eldest son of the younger sister,

WARNER WILLIAM WESTENRA, born October 14th., 1765, who was created a Baron of the United Kingdom as BARON ROSSMORE, June 23rd., 1828. His Lordship had married, first, October 3rd., 1791, Mary Anne, second daughter of Charles Walsh, Esq., of Walsh Park, in the county of Tipperary, and by her had, with other children,

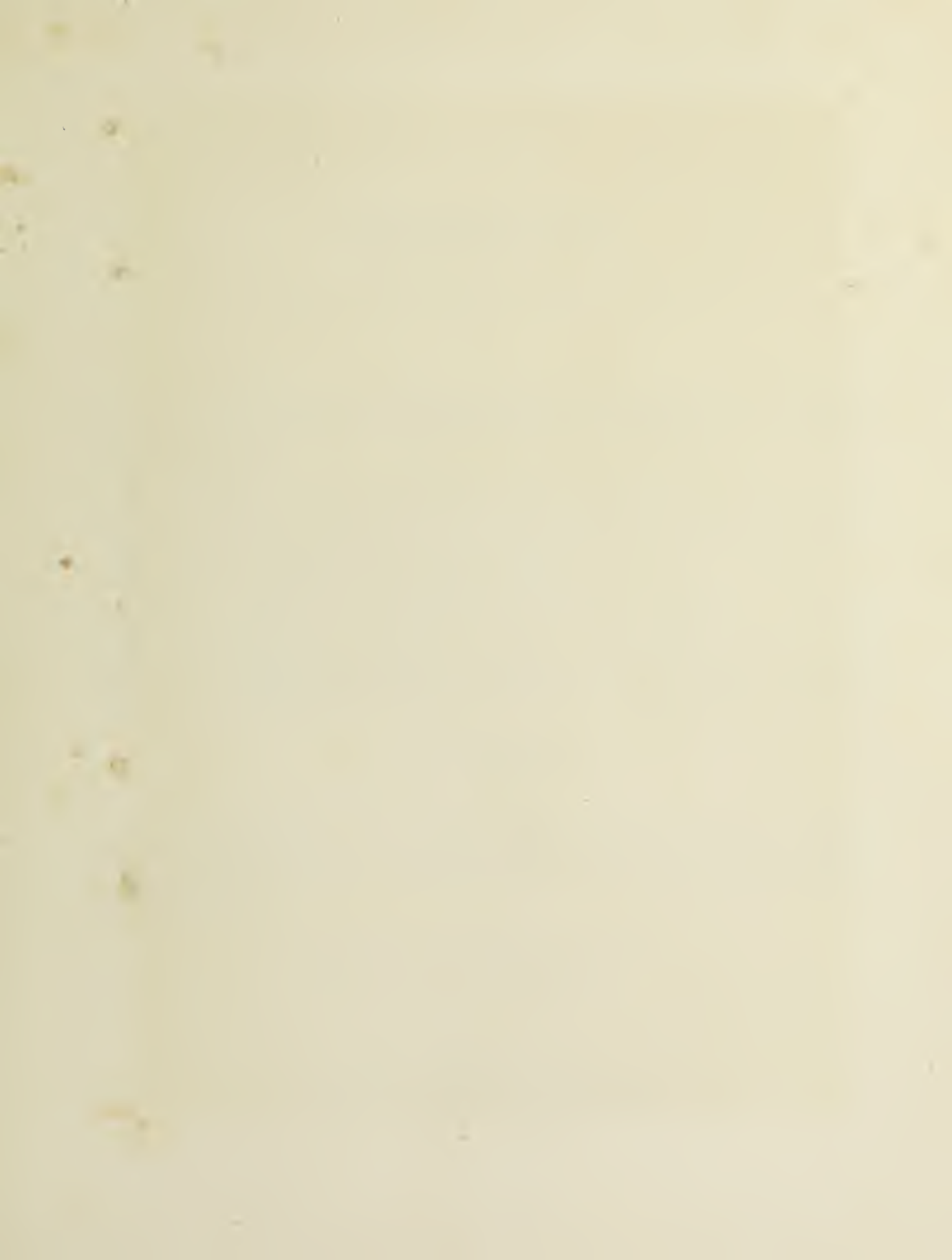
HENRY ROBERT WESTENRA, born August 24th., 1792, who succeeded as third Baron. He married, first, Lady Anne Douglas, daughter of Douglas eighth Duke of Hamilton, who died issueless August 20th., 1844, and secondly, May 19th., 1846, his cousin, Josephine Julia Helen Lloyd, second daughter of Henry Lloyd, Esq., of Farrinrory, in the county of Tipperary, and had

HENRY CAIRNS WESTENRA, an officer in the 1st. Life Guards, born November 14th., 1851, who succeeded to the title as fourth Baron Rossmore. He died 28th. March, 1874, and was succeeded by his next brother, the present Peer,

DERRICK WARNER WILLIAM WESTENRA, Sub-Lieutenant 1st. Life Guards, born 7th. February, 1853.



PHILIP HAUGH.



PHILIPHAUGH,

NEAR SELKIRK, SELKIRKSHIRE.—MURRAY, BARONET.

HISTORY notes Philiphaugh as a place of considerable mark in the south of Scotland. On its plains the celebrated battle between Generals Montrose and Leslie was fought in 1645, which decided the religion of Scotland, the Covenanted Presbyterians gaining the victory.

The estate has been in the possession of the Murray family for centuries. The first of the family upon record was Archibald de Morovia, who lived in the reign of King^s Alexander III., and is mentioned in the Chartulary of Newbattle, Anno 1280. For centuries they possessed the greatest portion of the county of Selkirk, and a large extent of Peebleshire, besides lands in Midlothian.

Among the ancestors of the present proprietor, who is a descendant in the direct male line from Archibald de Morovia, were many distinguished men both in the Scottish and English Parliaments. Among the most celebrated was the Outlaw Murray. He is mentioned as being of a prodigious size and strength, and among the most daring and foremost of the Border Chieftains, with five hundred retainers—

“A’ in ae liverye clad,
O’ the Lincome grene sae gaye to see.”

On one occasion King James IV. had an interview with him not far from Philiphaugh, desiring him to become a faithful subject, and acknowledge him as king. At the interview (see Scott’s “Border Minstrelsy,”—Song of the Outlaw Murray,) the King said

“On gallows ye sall hanget be!”
“Over God’s forbode,” quoth the outlaw then,
“I hope your Grace will bettir be!
Else, ere you come to Edinburgh port,
I trow thin guarded sall ye be:

“Thir landis of Ettricke Foreste fair
I wan them from the enemy—
Like as I wan them, sae will I keep them,
Contrair a’ Kingis in Christentie.”

The King and his nobles attending him were so struck with the courage and noble bearing of the Outlaw, that he obtained forgiveness, and then said, on being asked by the King to name his lands—

“Fair Philiphaugh is mine by right,
And Lewinshope still mine sall be;
Newark, Foulshiells, and Tinnies baith,
My bow and arrow purchased me.

“And I have native steeds to me,
The Newark Lee and Hangingshaw;
I have mony steeds in the Forest schaw,
But them by name I dinna knaw.”

The keys of the Castell he gave the King
Wi’ the blessing of his fair Ladye;
He was made sheriffe of Etticke Foreste,
Sarely while upward grows the tree;
And if he was na traitour to the King,
Forfaulted he suld never be.

Whaeve heard, in ony times,
Sicken an Outlaw in his degree?
Sic favour get before a King,
As did the Outlaw Murray of the Foreste free?”

The present owner of the estate succeeded to the Baronetcy of Melgund, which title had been granted, and held by a junior member of the family since 1704. It was assumed shortly after the death of Sir Albert Joseph Murray, a Count of the Austrian Empire, by an order of the Sheriff in Chancery.

Sir John Murray is the chief of the families of his name in the southern portion of Scotland.

I quote the following from one of the printed accounts of the residence:—

“The situation of the Mansion House is very beautiful and romantic,—backed by lofty hills, covered with the largest portion now extant of the well-wooded forest of Ettrick, with the lovely and classic river Yarrow in the foreground. The beauty and elegance of the hall and public rooms, with the suits and trophies of ancient armour; the numerous family portraits and fine paintings by old and modern artists; the collection of antique furniture, bronzes, and magnificent china of all periods, along with numerous relics from the battlefield, consisting of muskets, swords, cannon balls, and silver coins, make it one of the most interesting and attractive residences in the Scottish borders.”

Through the liberality of the proprietor, both the Mansion House and grounds are thrown open to visitors and tourists.



WYNNSTAY.

WYNNSTAY,

NEAR RHUABON, DENBIGHSHIRE.—WILLIAMS-WYNN, BARONET.

THIS place, in the fifteenth century, formed part of the estates of John ap Ellis Eyton, who fought at the battle of Bosworth, and whose tomb, upon which are effigies of himself and of his wife, remains in one of the Wynnstay Chapels in Rhuabon Church.

From the Eytons the estate passed by marriage to a family of the name of Evans, and from them, by the marriage of Jane, daughter and heiress of Eyton Evans, Esq., with Sir John Wynn, Baronet, Custos Rotulorum and M.P. for Merionethshire, to the Wynns. Sir John died without issue in 1719, aged ninety-one, and left his large possessions to his kinsman, Watkin, eldest son of Sir William Williams, Baronet, who thereupon assumed the additional surname of Wynn. Sir William was the eldest son and successor of the Right Honourable Sir William Williams, Baronet, who was Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of King Charles the Second, and who died in the year 1700.

The spacious park at Wynnstay, containing about five hundred head of deer, red and fallow, was enclosed, and the wall built, in the time of Sir John Wynn, who also planted the now venerable avenue.

The house, prior to the lamentable fire in 1858, was an extensive but irregular pile, containing some fine apartments, and at the time of the fire was undergoing extensive alterations. The whole was destroyed, with the exception of the offices. Many pictures of great value, and a rare and valuable collection of books and manuscripts perished in the flames. Fortunately the pictures by Sir Joshua Reynolds were saved through the exertions of the French cook, who cut them from their frames before the flames reached them.

The new mansion which has arisen upon the ruins is a spacious edifice, in the style of one of the old French palaces, from the design of B. Ferrey, Esq., and contains a valuable collection of pictures by the great masters.

Wynnstay park is stated to embrace a circuit of eight miles. Within the park, at a mansion called Bodylltyn, lived in the sixteenth century, Edward ap Roger Eyton, of high authority as a Welsh herald and genealogist. A large folio volume, entirely in his autograph, is extant. He died in 1587.

The inscription upon the handsome column in the park to the memory of Sir

Watkin Williams Wynn, who died in 1789, was written by his brother-in-law, the talented Lord Grenville, "*Filio optimo, mater cheu! superstes.*"

To say that this family is of Welsh origin, and that both paternally and maternally, is sufficient to shew its antiquity. To be of the Ancient British race is to date back to a period long antecedent to the arrival of Saxons or Normans in the country. In the male line the descent is from

CADRODD HARDD (Cadrodd the Handsome), twenty-second ancestor of the owner of Wynnstay, and, in the female line, from

RHODRI MAWR, King of Wales, himself the representative of a long line of regal forefathers, who was slain A.D. 876. The twenty-fifth successor to whom was

WILLIAM WYNN, ESQ., whose daughter, Sydney Wynn, married Edward Thelwall, Esq., and their daughter became the wife of Sir William Williams, Bart., of Llandforda, who, on succeeding by will to the estates of the House of Wynnstay, assumed the additional surname and arms of Wynn.



MORETON HALL.

MORETON HALL,

NEAR CONGLETON, CHESHIRE.—ACKERS.

THE view towards the south from this fine seat is bounded by that range of hills which extends from Scotland southwards into the centre of England, and which here presents one of its most remarkable features, in the high hill called Mow Cop (a corruption of the old British word Moel, and the Saxon word Cop), which is about twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea, and surmounted by a ruined tower, and a singularly isolated rock, called "The old man of Mow," from its resemblance to a gigantic human figure. To the summit of this range of hills the handsome woods of the Moreton property extend, forming a splendid and picturesque view from the Hall beneath.

The park is entered by two ornamental stone lodges.

The ancient house on this property, built in the year 1602, was a fine specimen of the old black and white timbered mansions of Cheshire, with innumerable gable ends and carved wood work, but having fallen into a state of total dilapidation, the building was taken down in the year 1844 by the late owner of the property, Mr. Ackers, and in its stead, on a different site, a splendid Hall in the Gothic style was commenced by him in the year 1841, under the celebrated architect Mr. Blore, and finished in 1843.

The house is built of stone from the Moreton quarries on Mow Cop, and presents a very handsome appearance, having a square tower in the centre, and many smaller turrets and towers of various forms.

The interior is composed of a spacious entrance-hall and vestibule, each lined with Caen stone, elaborately carved; a splendid dining-hall sixty-four feet in length, with a massive wood pitched roof thirty-six feet high, walls of Caen stone, and richly-carved chimney-piece of the same material; a minstrel gallery at one end, with fine oak screen and a raised dais at the upper end of the hall, and lofty Gothic windows, ornamented with stained glass, complete this fine banqueting hall. From thence, passing through an ante-room of paneled oak, is a handsome saloon, fifty feet in length, and a smaller drawing-room hung with beautiful old Oudenarde tapestry in a high state of preservation. Besides these apartments the library and other rooms are spacious and well arranged.

GEORGE ACKERS, Esq., of Moreton Hall, born August 19th., 1788, married, November 8th., 1811, Harriet Dell, second daughter of Henry Hutton, Esq., of Leicester, and by her left at his decease, November 22nd., 1836, an only child,

GEORGE HOLLAND ACKERS, Esq., of Moreton Hall. He formerly belonged to the Royal Horse Guards Blue, was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Queen's Own Staffordshire Yeomanry, Commodore of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Cheshire, and served as High Sheriff for the County in the year 1852.

STORAGE HALL



HENGRAVE HALL,

NEAR BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK.—GAGE.

HENGRAVE HALL is an admirable example of the fine old houses with which this country abounds. The date of its erection is fixed by the following inscription in three compartments, cut in stone on the outside of a curious oriel window over the entrance: "OPUS HOC FIERI FECIT TOMA KYTSON—IN DIEU ET MON DROIT—ANNO D'NI MCCCC TRICESIMO OCTAVO." This inscription runs round a fillet beneath the bow window, and the second division of it is under the royal arms.

This mansion affords a unique specimen of ancient domestic architecture. The whole is of brick and stone. "The gateway," observes Mr. Gough, "is of such singular beauty, and in such high preservation, that perhaps a more elegant specimen of the architecture of that age can scarcely be seen." It was once more extensive than at present, several alterations having been made, and some parts at the north and north-east angle taken away, in 1775. The building, which is still large, encloses a quadrangular court, and the apartments open into a gallery, the windows of which overlook this court. They formerly contained a quantity of stained glass, and the bay window in the hall still retains some fine specimens, consisting of various armorial bearings. The window also is richly adorned with mullions, fan-tracery, pendants, and spandrils, all of which nearly resemble the highly florid examples in King Henry the Seventh's Chapel. The turrets at each side of the entrance and at the corners of the building, as also two small turreted columns at the door, bear a striking resemblance to Moorish minarets, or the capitals of Indian edifices.

Some years since this mansion was the abode of a sisterhood of expatriated nuns of Bruges, to whom the owner of Hengrave liberally afforded an asylum. During their residence here, they lost, by death, their superior, a lineal descendant of the great Sir Thomas More. When the decree in favour of the emigrants was issued in France, they availed themselves of the permission to return to their own country.

Very near the hall stands a small church, which is distinguished by one of the ancient round towers that seem to be peculiar to this part of the kingdom. No use seems to have been made of the edifice for several years, the Rectory having been consolidated with Flempton. Of the monuments within it, the principal are those of the Kitsons; one of John Bouchier, Earl of Bath, who married into this family; one of his son, John, Lord Fitzwarren; one of Thomas, son of Earl Rivers; and several of the Gages.

There is a fine marble tomb, in memory of Sir Thomas Kitson, the founder of Hengrave Hall, with effigies of himself and one of his wives; but it is rather singular that in the inscription a blank is left for the parentage of his first wife. This gentleman, who came from the obscure village of Yealland, in Lancashire, having obtained immense wealth by commercial speculation in the cloth trade, received the honour of knighthood. He purchased the manor of Hengrave from the crown, and possessed several other estates in Suffolk, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and the city of London, for which he served the office of Sheriff. He was afterwards appointed by the Duke of Norfolk Steward of the Franchise of Bury St. Edmunds, and died September 13th., 1540, aged fifty-five.

This ancient and distinguished family claims its origin from

THE SIRE DE GAUGI, whose name is on the Roll of Battle Abbey as having fought at Hastings. It is represented by the head of the House, Lord Gage, one of whose ancestors,

SIR JOHN GAGE, BARONET, of Firle, married Lady Penelope Darcy, daughter and co-heiress of Lord Rivers. It is related of her that she "was wooed by three suitors at the same time, and the knights, as in chivalry bound, were disposed to contest the prize with target and lance; but the lady herself forbad the battle, and menaced the disobedient knights with her lasting displeasure, promising, jocularly, that if they had but patience, she would have them all in their turns; and she actually fulfilled her promise, for she married, first, Sir George Trenchard, of Wolverton, Dorsetshire; secondly, Sir John Gage, of Firle; and thirdly, Sir William Hervey, of Ickworth."

The son of the second marriage,

EDWARD GAGE, ESQ., was created a Baronet July 15th., 1662, and was followed by a direct line of successors in the title, of whom the ninth,

SIR EDWARD ROKEWODE GAGE, BARONET, born March 20th., 1812, married, August 2nd., 1842, Henrietta Mary, second daughter of the Rev. Lord Frederick Beauclerk, third son of the fifth Duke of St. Albans.



EASTON HALL

EASTON HALL,

NEAR GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE.—CHOLMELEY, BARONET.

I TAKE the following account of this place from the “Visitation of Seats and Arms,” by Sir Bernard Burke:—

“Easton was an old Hall surrounded by extensive farm offices, and a considerable village inhabited by the servants of the family. The grounds were pleasantly diversified, and there were many great trees, and an old-fashioned garden, with a river and yew hedges. Considerable alterations were recently made in this old Hall and grounds, but in doing their quaintness was partly lost, which was their only claim to notice. A successor has completely changed the place. Retaining the best portions, both of the original building, and of the later alterations, he has given something of a feudal character to the whole, and has made extensive additions in excellent taste. The village and farm offices have been removed. New offices have been built in keeping with the manorial character which has been given to the house. A stone court has been constructed in front, which is entered under a gate tower, and through an arched gateway. The old garden has been restored, and terraces have been constructed, descending from the house to the stream. Many great additions have been made to the internal accommodation. The entrance-hall has been paneled with carved oak, and raised to the height of the second storey, and there is a handsome suite, of dining-room, library, two drawing-rooms, and conservatory. The fitting up of the interior has been made as much as possible to correspond with the style of the exterior, which is intended to represent the Elizabethan age.”

The three several families of Cholmondeley, Cholmeley, and Cholmley, claim each a common ancestry in

WILLIAM DE CHOLMONDELEY, the head of the house in the reign of King Henry the Fourth. His second son,

JOHN CHOLMELEY, the ancestor of the family of Easton Hall, had two sons, both, strangely as it seems to us, named John. Of these, the second,

JOHN CHOLMELEY, was the father of

RICHARD CHOLMELEY, who, by his wife Dionysia Philips, had two sons, of whom the younger,

JOHN CHOLMELEY, married Isabel Hare, and had

(SIR) HENRY CHOLMELEY, of Easton, in Lincolnshire. He was knighted, and died in 1620, and was succeeded by his elder son,

HENRY CHOLMELEY, of Easton, who died in 1632, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Sondes, of Throwley, and had a son and heir,

MONTAGUE CHOLMELEY, of Easton, who died in 1652. He was father of, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Hartopp, Bart., of Buckminster,

MONTAGUE CHOLMELEY, of Easton, who married, first, Alice, daughter of Sir Edward Brownlow, Bart., of Great Humby in the same county, and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Booth, Alderman of London, a cadet of the family of Booth, Earl of Warrington, and was followed by his son,

JAMES CHOLMELEY, of Easton, who died in 1735. He married Catherine Woodfine, by whom he had, with other issue, an eldest son,

JOHN CHOLMELEY, of Easton, who died in 1768. He married Penelope, daughter of Sir Joseph Herne, of Twyford, and was succeeded by his son,

MONTAGUE CHOLMELEY, of Easton, married to Mary, daughter of Humphrey Sibthorpe, of Canwick Hall, Lincolnshire, and had an heir,

SIR MONTAGUE CHOLMELEY, of Easton, born in 1772, M.P. for Grantham. He was created a Baronet, March 4th., 1806. He married twice, his first wife being (married September 14th., 1801,) Elizabeth, daughter of John Harrison, Esq., of Norton Place, in the county of Lincoln, and had issue, of whom the eldest son,

SIR MONTAGUE JOHN CHOLMELEY, BARONET, of Easton Hall and Norton Place, both in the same county, born August 5th., 1802, married, February 10th., 1829, Lady Georgiana Beauclerk, fifth daughter of William, eighth Duke of St. Albans, and had a second surviving son,

HUGH ARTHUR CHOLMELEY, M.P. for Grantham, born in October, 1839.



PRESTON HALL

PRESTON HALL,

NEAR AYLESFORD, KENT.—BRASSEY.

PRESTON HALL, the seat of Henry A. Brassey, Esq., M.P., is of very ancient date, and was formerly the residence of the Colpepper family, who were proprietors of the Preston Hall estate, which comprises the manors of Aylesford, Eccles, Tottington, and Cossington. The estate passed from them to the Milners, from whom it was purchased by E. L. Betts, Esq. Since that time the old mansion has been removed, and the present handsome stone edifice erected upon a more elevated but not far-distant spot. Near the site of the old hall there is still a large barn, bearing the initials T. C., and the date 1102.

The parish of Aylesford was anciently a royal demesne, and is mentioned as such in "Domesday Book," and within it the families of De Grey, Wyatt, Colpepper, Sedley, and Cosenton resided or held considerable property.

Ancient Roman and other relics have been frequently discovered here. About the year 455, a battle was fought here between the Britons and Saxons, in which both Catigern and Horsa were killed, and which resulted in the Saxons leaving the kingdom for some time. It was here also that Edmund Ironside desisted from his pursuit of the Danes under Canute; and upon Blue Bell Hill, in the immediate neighbourhood, the traces of ancient military entrenchments are still discernible.

In the possession of Druidical remains the parish of Aylesford is also remarkable. One of these, a cromlech, named Kit's Coty House, is described as being "composed of four large stones, three of them placed in an upright position, one across at the back between the other two, forming a rude shed, and the fourth lying flat upon the top of them, forming a roof. The two outside stones are each about eight feet high, eight feet broad, and two feet thick; the back stone is not so broad, but of a similar height; the top stone is about eleven feet long, eight feet broad and two feet thick. The structure is capable of affording shelter to several persons. It is supposed to be a place of sepulture; tradition says it is the burial-place of Catigern." A larger structure of a similar kind originally stood somewhat nearer to the village of Aylesford, but having fallen down at some period unknown, the stones now lie in a confused heap, and are partly overgrown with trees. In a field close by the Tottington farm buildings many large stones of a like description are scattered, as well as at the bottom of a pond upon the same farm; and near these a solitary flat stone of huge dimensions, which, from its shape, is called the Coffin.

This spot was evidently one of much importance among the Druids, and attracts many visitors.

The church at Aylesford, dedicated to St. Peter, is a handsome structure of the fourteenth century, and contains several ancient and costly monuments of the Colpeppers and Rycauts; one also of Sir John Banks, Baronet, who died in 1699. The parish register dates from the year 1653.

A building, called the Friars, still existing upon the bank of the Medway, was the earliest foundation in England of the Carmelite Friars, who were brought over by Richard de Grey, of Codnor, on his return from the Holy Land, and who founded this priory, which was afterwards dissolved by King Henry the Eighth. The remains of Richard, Lord Grey, of Codnor, were brought from Normandy and buried here, as were also those of other members of that family.

New National Schools were erected in 1872, the boys' school by subscription, largely aided by Mr. Brassey, who presented the site and play-ground; and the girls' school was built solely at the expense of that gentleman.

LAWTON HALL







LAWTON HALL,

NEAR CONGLETON, CHESHIRE.—LAWTON.

THIS mansion is a handsome structure of considerable extent.

The grounds are tastefully laid out, extending to the church at the west front of the house, and contain an artificial sheet of water.

At the time of Edward the Confessor, Lawton, then called "Lautune," was divided into two unequal portions, both of which were held by Godric, and both became the property of Hugo de Mara, and are mentioned in the Domesday Survey.

Hugo de Mara, a Fitz-Norman, who was the founder of the Barony of Montalt, conferred Lawton on the Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester.

A moiety of the township was possessed by a family bearing the local name in the time of Henry the Third, and which frequently occurs in grants to the superior lords, the Abbots.

On the dissolution of the monasteries, the manor, together with the patronage of the church, was purchased from the Crown, in 1541, by William Lawton, of Lawton.

In 1552, William Lawton was found to have held the Manor of Lawton, with court-leet and free-warren, and the advowson of the church of Church Lawton, from the King, *in capite*, by military service.

HUGH LAWTON, of Lawton, married Isabella, daughter of John Madoc, and by her had issue

JOHN LAWTON, who married and died in the lifetime of his father, leaving an only surviving son,

RICHARD LAWTON, who succeeded his grandfather, and was himself succeeded by

JAMES LAWTON, who left by Eleonora, daughter of Matthew More, a son and heir,

WILLIAM LAWTON. He married Katherine, daughter of Thomas Bellott, Esq., of Moreton, in the same county.

JOHN LAWTON, Esq., living in 1580, had a son, by his second wife, daughter of Fulke Dutton, Esq.,

WILLIAM LAWTON, Esq., whose eldest son,

JOHN LAWTON, Esq., married Clare, daughter of Ralph Sneyd, Esq., of Keele, in the county of Stafford, and left a son and successor,

WILLIAM LAWTON, Esq., who served the office of High Sheriff of Cheshire, in 1672, and by Hester, daughter of Sir Edward Longueville, Bart., left at his death, in 1693, a son and heir,

JOHN LAWTON, Esq. He married, first, Anne, daughter of George, younger son of Henry, first Earl of Manchester, and sister of Charles, Earl of Halifax, by whom he had no surviving issue. By his second wife, Mary, relict of Sir Edward Longueville, Bart., he left a son and successor,

ROBERT LAWTON, Esq. He was Sheriff of Cheshire in 1754, and by Sarah, daughter of John Offley, Esq., M.P. for the County, he had a son and heir,

JOHN LAWTON, Esq., who married Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Charles Crewe, Esq., M.P. for Cheshire, by whom he left at his death, in 1804, four sons, and was succeeded by the eldest,

WILLIAM LAWTON, Esq., who died without issue, when the estates passed to his next brother,

CHARLES BOURNE LAWTON, Esq., who married, first, Anne, daughter of Henry Featherstonhaugh, Esq., of Tooting, in Surrey, and secondly, Mariana Percy, daughter of William Belcombe, Esq., M.D., of York. He was succeeded by his nephew,

JOHN LAWTON, Esq., of Lawton Hall, J.P., married, 1845, Emily Anne, youngest daughter of Thomas Legh, Esq., of Adlington, and had by her a son,

WILLIAM JOHN PERCY LAWTON, Esq., of Lawton Hall, born December 27th., 1849.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT,*

CORNWALL.—ST. AUBYN, BARONET.

THIS is a truly historical place, and is believed to have been visited by the Phœnicians of old, on their trading visits to the Ancient Britons, for the natural products of that part of the island.

It has been celebrated for long ages on account of the singularity and beauty of its situation, as

“That beauteous gem set in the silver sea.”

It derives its name from a supposed visit of the Archangel St. Michael, who was supposed to have honoured it with his presence.

Here for some time lived

“That valiante Cornishman
“Who slewe ye Giante Cormoran.”

This stronghold was first taken by Henry de la Pomeroy, who obtained it by stratagem, and held it for John against his brother Richard the First. He soon afterwards died from fright, fearing the consequences of his rebellion.

Part of the building is believed to be of such old date as the time of Edward the Confessor. The most interesting portions of it are the Guard Room, the Refectory, or Chevy Chase Room, and the Chapel. The Refectory remains to this day in its original state, except that it has had the addition of a splendidly carved roof of English oak.

The Service of the Church of England was held in the Chapel by the last proprietor. One of the pinnacles on its tower is the famous St. Michael's Chair, of

* See View on the Title-page.

which it is said that whoever sits therein before marriage will rule either wife or husband, as the case may be.

“Within an open balcony,
“That hung from dizzy pitch and high.”

MARMION.

There is thus much foundation of truth in the saying, that he or she must be a person of strong nerves who can trust himself or herself to the giddy height. Not a few, however, have done and do so. It may, perhaps, therefore be that there are more strong-minded persons in the world than is commonly supposed.

This old Cornish family is now represented by
SIR EDWARD ST. AUBYN, BARONET, so created July 31st., 1866.

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